

IOWA STATE PREVIEW



THE ORIGINAL MAGAZINE DEDICATED TO NEBRASKA ATHLETICS

HUSKERS

ILLUSTRATED



FAILURE TO EXECUTE

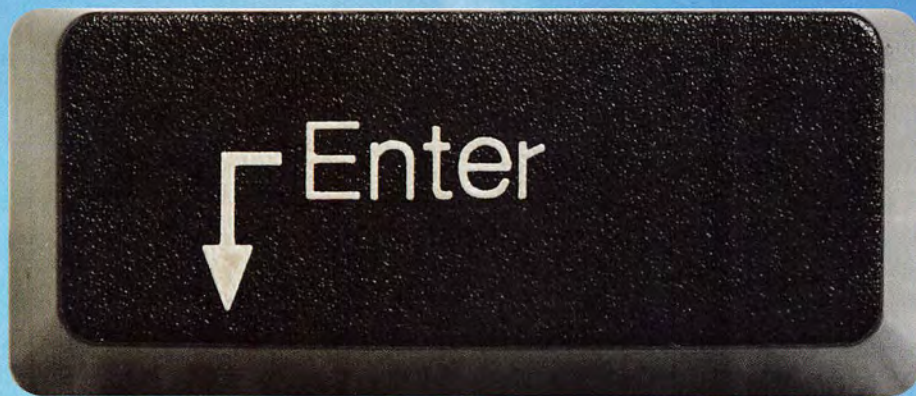
TEXAS TECH DOMINATES NEBRASKA IN 31-10 LOSS

OCTOBER 24, 2009 | VOLUME 29 | NO. 13 | \$3.95



7 25274 92574 2

HUSKERSILLUSTRATED.COM



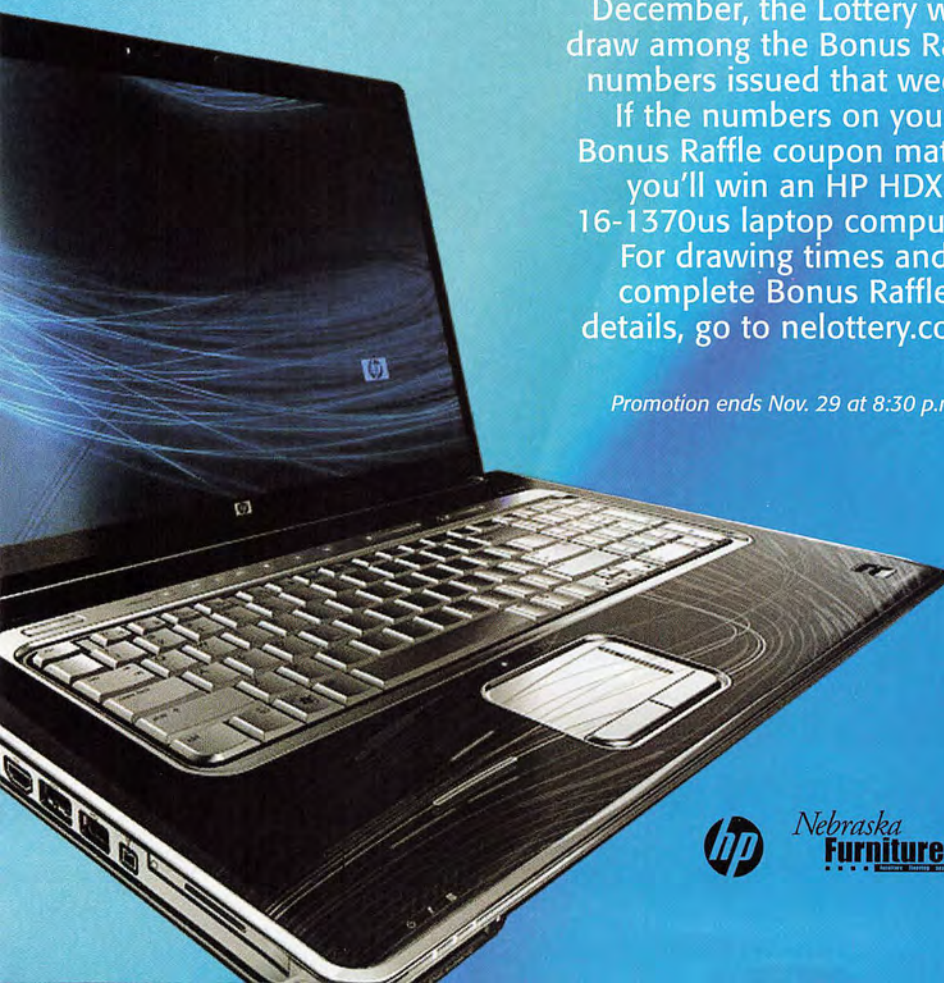
the Nebraska Lottery's Power Play Bonus Raffle!



Buy a \$2 Powerball
(with Power Play) single
ticket and get a Bonus Raffle
coupon. Every week until
December, the Lottery will
draw among the Bonus Raffle
numbers issued that week.

If the numbers on your
Bonus Raffle coupon match,
you'll win an HP HDX
16-1370us laptop computer!
For drawing times and
complete Bonus Raffle
details, go to nelottery.com.

Promotion ends Nov. 29 at 8:30 p.m.



nelottery.com



Must be 19. Please play responsibly.
Compulsive Gambling Help Line: 800-522-4700.



PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

THE ORIGINAL MAGAZINE DEDICATED TO NEBRASKA ATHLETICS

HUSKERS

ILLUSTRATED

OCTOBER 24, 2009 • VOLUME 29 • NO. 13

COLUMNS

4 FROM THE EDITOR by Aaron Babcock
Offensive Struggle

12 READING THE FIELD by Joe Ganz
Watson's value extends beyond field

19 STATE OF THE HUSKERS by Curt McKeever
Suh for Heisman? He deserves consideration

37 DEEP IN THE HEART OF TEXAS by John Talman
A case for the greatest Huskers from Texas

46 THE FINAL WORD by Mike Babcock
Cornhuskers take wins, losses as team

SPECIAL FEATURES

14 HOMETOWN HERO

17 CATCHING UP WITH CURTIS CRAIG

30 HUSKER FLAVOR

DON'T MISS

- 6 2MINUTE DRILL**
- 16 10 QUESTIONS**
- 21 TURNING POINT**
- 22 GAME NOTES**
- 27 SCORE PREDICTIONS**
- 28 GAME STATS**
- 29 OPPONENT PREVIEW**
- 34 RECRUITING**
- 44 FROM THE ARCHIVES**
- 45 CROSSWORD**

NEXT ISSUE

Volume 29, Issue 14 recapping the Iowa State game will be mailed on Monday, Oct. 26. Check for updates at huskersillustrated.com.

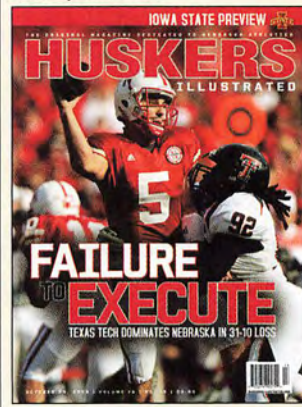
HUSKERS

ILLUSTRATED

ON THE COVER

Zac Lee and the Husker offense struggled to move the ball all day against Texas Tech as the Red Raiders rolled to a 31-10 victory. According to head coach Bo Pelini, Nebraska failed to execute in nearly every phase of the game.

Photo by Scott Bruhn



OFFENSIVE STRUGGLE

Penalties factor in Nebraska's inability to score



SURPRISED BY Saturday's 31-10 loss to Texas Tech?

Unfortunately, there was no reason to be blindsided by this loss. The handwriting was on the wall.

As I wrote last week, winning has a tendency to cover up problems and Nebraska was able to win at Missouri despite three terrible quarters on offense.

After six games, it appears that Nebraska's offensive troubles will not be easily corrected and that this is more than a trend – it's an identity.

In three games against quality Division I competition (Virginia Tech, Missouri and Texas Tech), the Cornhuskers have been shut out in six of 12 quarters. They have failed to score a touchdown in 10 of those 12 quarters. Quarterback Zac Lee led Nebraska to four touchdowns in the fourth quarter against Missouri, while freshman Cody Green engineered a fourth-quarter scoring drive in the fourth quarter against Texas Tech.

Those are frightening numbers.

While much of the blame will be placed on Lee, Nebraska has injury issues in the backfield and inconsistent play on the offensive line.

One of the biggest drive killers has been the penalties Nebraska has accumulated in those three games. Nebraska was flagged 12 times for 95 yards on Saturday. Against Missouri – 12 penalties for 108 yards. Against the Hokies – 9 penalties for 60 yards. That's a total of 33 penalties for 263 yards, or an average of 11 penalties for 88 yards in those three games.

Saturday's loss also highlights another disappointing trend – failure against the Big 12 South.

Nebraska is 4-14 against Big 12 South teams in its last 18 contests and hasn't swept the South since 2001. Nebraska will get two more chances to improve their record with games at Baylor and vs. Oklahoma this season.

Nebraska can obviously still win the North, but not without correcting these major deficiencies. Each of the teams in the North already have losses in the Big 12 North. Nebraska definitely has the best defense in the division, but will it be able to score enough points to take advantage? **N**

Send me your comments or story ideas to aaron@huskersillustrated.com.

**EDITOR,
GENERAL MANAGER**
Aaron Babcock

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR
Mike Babcock

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Mike Babcock, Terry Douglass, John Talman,
Sean Callahan, Curt McKeever, Steve Sipple,
Brian Rosenthal, Randy York, Bob Hamar,
Rick Shaw, Sean Stevens, Tommy Dahlk,
Evan Bland, Joe Ganz

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS
Scott Bruhn, NU Sports Information,
Aaron Babcock, Randy Hampton
and Rivals.com

**SPORTS MARKETING
& ADVERTISING DIRECTOR**
Tim Francis (800) 524-9527, ext. 111

NATIONAL DISTRIBUTOR
G Associates, Inc.

Huskers Illustrated (ISSN 0279-3474) is published monthly January through May and August, bi-monthly June/July and weekly September through mid-December, except open football dates. Single issue cost \$3.95 (yearbook \$9.95); subscription rate for one year (19 issues) is \$51.95. First Class postage is available for an additional charge of \$19 per year. Foreign postage is \$34.

Huskers Illustrated is published by Landmark Community Newspapers, 2623 Regency Rd., Lexington, KY 40503. Periodicals postage paid at Lexington, KY, and additional mailing offices.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Huskers Illustrated, 7755 S. 23rd St., Lincoln, NE 68512.

Reproduction or use of editorial or graphics content in any manner without permission is prohibited. Photographs and manuscripts for publication are welcome, but will not be acknowledged or returned unless accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope. The publisher assumes no responsibility for unsolicited material.

For subscription inquiries, mail to Huskers Illustrated, 2623 Regency Rd., Lexington, KY 40503. Allow four to six weeks for response. Give old and new addresses and enclose latest mailing address label when writing about your subscription.

CUSTOMER SERVICE
1-800-524-9527
To subscribe or renew

Huskers Illustrated Online
www.huskersillustrated.com

E-MAIL ADDRESSES
Editorial: huskersillustrated@gmail.com
Advertising: tfrancis@lcni.com

THE OFFICIAL **HUSKERS** PREGAME SHOW
ILLUSTRATED

TheHuddle

@ The Holiday Inn Downtown

ALL DAY PARTY

ONLY AT THE HOLIDAY INN

This year will mark the first-ever official gameday event for fans of Huskers Illustrated. We have teamed up with the Holiday Inn to launch The Huddle @ The Holiday Inn Downtown on gamedays.

Huskers Illustrated will be hosting a two-hour pre-game show on location, hosted by Chris Schmidt, Mike Babcock and Sean Callahan and will feature special guests each week! We'll break down the game, discuss the state of the Huskers and update you on the latest recruiting news. It will without a doubt be your most informative pre-game option.

As if this wasn't enough, the Holiday Inn will be offering great food and drink specials and will have rockin' music when we're not on! We are giving away TONS of awesome prizes each week.

For more information visit
HuskersIllustrated.com.



elite
CUSTOM
TECHNOLOGY

141 N. 9th St., Lincoln
(877) 863-4780



Holiday Inn

2MinuteDrill



QUICK START

ERIC MARTIN was ready to play right away. No sitting around for him.

"When I came out here, I didn't want to redshirt because I just wanted to get a feel for college football," he said. "I didn't want to take a year off and watch because then I felt like I wouldn't get the speed of the play because you know they say it's way faster than high school.

"I just wanted to get a feel for the play, even if I'm playing special teams right now."

Martin's position is linebacker, and he's learning as a back-up, while his opportunity to see the field has come on special teams. He starts on the kickoff team and rotates on the others.

The experience has been humbling. "During fall camp, I kind of thought I was a know-it-all," he said. "I listened to the coaches, but then when somebody walked up to me, I didn't listen."

Admitting he didn't know everything was difficult.

"It is the hardest thing to admit," said Martin. "Every freshman goes through it. Either you're going to find out in the beginning or you're going to find out in the end."

If it's the latter, you're not going to be playing because "you're just going to make too many mistakes, and it's just going to mess you up," Martin said. "Now I'm trying to listen to people around me, trying

to get this whole team thing going, make sure everybody's on the same page."

If he had to do it over, would he redshirt?

"I'm kind of happy that I didn't redshirt," he said. "But at the same time, I'm kind of not (happy) because to be here an extra year...but I'm happy with what I'm doing.

"At least I'm helping the team out."

Through the first five games this season, Martin was among five true freshmen who saw action, the same as last season. That's in marked contrast to Bill Callahan's four seasons as coach, when 36 true freshmen played – including a school record 13 in 2005.

2MinuteDrill

RECENT TRUE FRESHMAN TO PLAY

(2009)

Antonio Bell, WR
Rex Burkhead, IB
Cody Green, QB
P.J. Mangieri, LS
Eric Martin, LB

(2008)

Alfonzo Dennard, CB
Matt Holt, LB
Mason Wald, DB
#Sean Fisher, LB
#Cameron Meredith, DE

(2007)

Prince Amukamara, CB
Anthony Blue, CB
Jaivorio Burkes, OL
Quentin Castille, IB
Thomas Grove, LB
Eric Hagg, DB
Roy Helu, Jr., IB
Adi Kunalic, PK
Blake Lawrence, LB
Niles Paul, WR
Latravis Washington, LB

(2006)

Major Culbert, S
Jacob Hickman, OL
Menelik Holt, WR
Rickey Thenarse, S
Corey Young, DB

(2005)

Harrison Beck, QB
Chris Brooks, WR
Jordan Congdon, PK
Phillip Dillard, LB
Cody Glenn, IB
Leon Jackson, IB
Marlon Lucky, IB
Zach Potter, DE
Matt Slauson, OL
Jeff Souder, DB
#Ndamukong Suh, DT
Hunter Teafatiller, TE
Barry Turner, DE

(2004)

Lance Brandenburg, LB
Beau Davis, QB
Cortney Grixby, CB
Brandon Jackson, IB
Mike Keenan, LB
Terrence Nunn, WR
Santino Panico, WR
#Injured, medical redshirts



REDSHIRTING: Junior offensive guard **RICKY HENRY** has stepped in and started after redshirting following his transfer from North Dakota State College of Science. Early last season it appeared Henry might play without redshirting. "I think it was like the third or fourth game when they finally decided to go with it," he said. "It was a learning experience. I learned a lot redshirting. I'm kind of glad I did."

But would he do it over if given the chance? Not likely.

"I hated sitting around. It was boring," said Henry. "It sucked."

DÉJÀ VU

Nebraska's fourth-quarter comeback at Missouri was the Cornhuskers' most dramatic since 1966, when they rallied from a 19-7 deficit at Colorado, scoring two touchdowns in the final 10:42 for a 21-19 victory. Quarterback **BOB CHURCHICH** directed drives of 63 and 65 yards, passing to tight end **DENNIS MORRISON** for the first touchdown, with fullback **PETE TATMAN** carrying into the end zone from 2 yards out with 53 seconds remaining for the second.

LARRY WACHHOLTZ kicked the extra points.

Colorado also was involved in a fourth-quarter comeback that Cornhusker fans would just as soon forget. In 1990, Nebraska led 12-0 after three quarters at Memorial Stadium, only to lose 27-12.

Sound familiar? The game was played on a windy night, with temperatures in the high 30s and rain.

Colorado tailback **ERIC BIENIEMY** fumbled five times in the first three quarters, losing one at the Nebraska 3-yard line and another at the Cornhusker 20-yard line. But he scored touchdowns on four consecutive possessions in the fourth quarter to snap a 19-game Nebraska winning streak at home and help propel the then No. 9-Buffaloes to the Associated Press national championship.

Nebraska's points came on two **GREGG BARRIOS** field goals and a 46-yard pass from quarterback **MICKEY JOSEPH** to tight end **JOHNNY MITCHELL**. The Cornhuskers went into the game ranked No. 3.

2MinuteDrill



The "Gunslinger"

The term "gunslinger" has been used to describe **ZAC LEE**'s approach to playing quarterback. He was asked recently about the term. "You look at guys...like **BRETT FAVRE**, 'gunslinger' has a good connotation to it," said Lee. "Some guys it doesn't necessarily have as good a connotation.

"You think of guys who throw into triple coverage, guys who just gun it in there, regardless. I don't necessarily think I'm that...but am I confident in my arm? Yeah, I am.

"But I'm not going to force the ball into triple coverage."

Was he that type of "gunslinger" in the past?

"Maybe," he said, "a long time ago."

ACCOUNTABILITY

Accountability was a point of emphasis going into this season. And accountability is the responsibility of players. "It's one thing if emphasis comes from us (coaches),"

BO PELINI said during pre-season camp. "But when it starts coming from them and they start understanding: (A), they understand what we're looking for, and (B), you're going to hold each other accountable to make sure it's achieved without us having to do it all the time. That's a great thing. Your culture's starting to take over, and I think that's slowly but surely happening. But it's not where we want it to be yet."

Still, the process of getting there is well underway.

SIDELINES



MOVING UP

Lincoln, home to the Huskers, is No. 72 in the Sporting News' annual best sports cities rankings. A year ago, Lincoln ranked No. 90. Pittsburgh tops the list, compiled by considering a "city's number of teams, their regular-season won-lost records, playoff berths, bowl appearances and tournament bids, championships, applicable power ratings, fan fervor, attendance and more."

Says the Sporting News' **BOB HILLE**, who coordinates the rankings, which were a "Lincoln's rankings rise and fall with Nebraska football and basketball, but we know that, win or lose, the fans there are going to support their teams in that community."

Ranking of the homes of other Big 12 teams: Denver-Boulder, Colo., 18; Oklahoma City-Norman, Okla., 37; Austin, Texas, 38; Columbia, Mo., 56; Stillwater, Okla., 60; Lawrence, Kan., 61; Lubbock, Texas, 63; Waco, Texas, 85; College Station, Texas, 86; Manhattan, Kan., 91; Ames, Iowa, 114.

The first 37 on the list all have at least one professional sports team.



Lincoln Orthopaedic Center
helping Nebraska athletes
stay in the
game

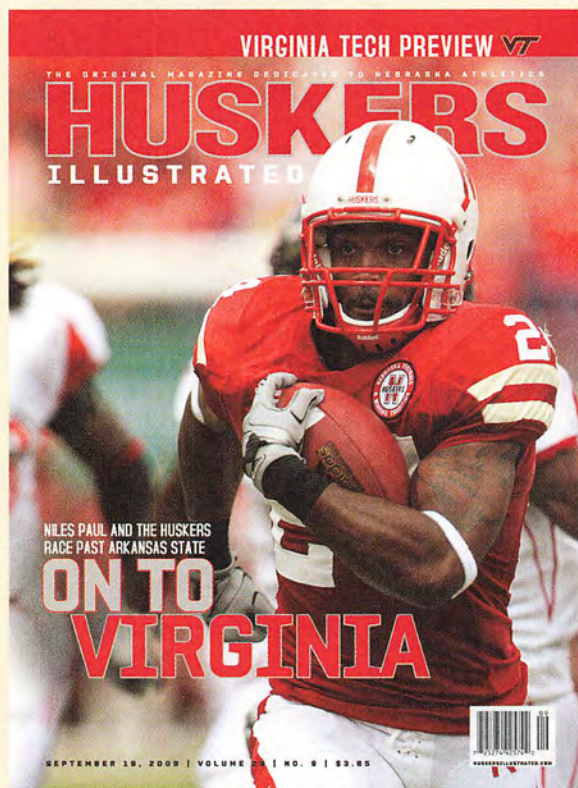


6900 A Street • Lincoln, Nebraska 68510 • 402 436 2000 • www.ortholinc.com

THE ORIGINAL MAGAZINE DEDICATED TO NEBRASKA ATHLETICS

HUSKERS

ILLUSTRATED



THE PERFECT GIFT FOR EVERY HUSKER FAN!

ORDER YOUR ONE-YEAR
SUBSCRIPTION TODAY

TO ORDER, CALL US AT

1-800-524-9527

SHOPHUSKERSILLUSTRATED.COM

SUBSCRIPTION FORM

YES, I want to order a one-year subscription (19 issues) of Huskers Illustrated for

☐ myself or ☐ a friend

Check the appropriate box below

☐ Second-class mail: \$51.95 per subscription

☐ First-class mail: \$70.95 per subscription

☐ Foreign postage: \$85.95 per subscription

ORDERED BY:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

STATE: _____

ZIP CODE: _____

DELIVER TO: (if different)

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

STATE: _____

ZIP CODE: _____

CREDIT CARD #: _____

EXP. DATE: _____

☐ VISA ☐ MASTERCARD ☐ DISCOVER

Mail to: Huskers Illustrated, P.O. Box 1498, Shelbyville, KY 40066-1498

Subscriber Benefits Include:

- ▶ View the magazine online before it arrives in the mail
- ▶ Have exclusive access to our special E-Editions! Our E-Editions feature breaking stories and are available ONLY to print subscribers
- ▶ Explore our searchable list of Huskers Illustrated special content

2MinuteDrill

PUNTING PHILOSOPHY



Hang 'em high. That's **ALEX HENERY's** approach to punting. "I'd rather hit a high punt that doesn't go as far as a line drive

because then your team's getting down there (in coverage)," he said. "If you get it high enough, they'll be down there to stop them, less than a 5-yard return, whereas if you hit a line drive, like a 60-yard punt...it might go that far, but they're going to return it 15, 20 yards.

"It's going to be the same thing."

Henery was an all-state punter at Omaha Burke High School, and "I was a big hang-time guy," he said. "That's what I would try to do more than crushing the ball, line drive."

CONTROLLED AGGRESSION

Offensive guard **RICKY HENRY's** reputation preceded him. Before he ever stepped on the field, after redshirting, his aggressive personality bordered on legend. Among the offensive lineman, "I'd probably say the most aggressively emotional guy would probably have to be Ricky, because when he really gets in the zone, he'll let everybody know," said sophomore tackle **MARCEL JONES**.

"He's a beast. Coach (**BARNEY COTTON**)'s done a really good job of trying to control him, trying to keep him under control because, you know, when we just say, 'Ricky, go at it,' he will just go at it. We've been trying to help him calm down in certain areas because in some places, he's just like another **RICHIE INCOGNITO**, just waiting to explode."

SIDELINES



EAT YOUR VEGETABLES

Junior I-back **ROY HELU, JR.** is quick to credit team nutritionist **JOSH HINGST**, who joined the 2009, for his improved physical condition.

"Ever since Josh got here, I did lose weight, toned up," said Helu. "I ate healthier. I eat vegetables now. I don't know if that helps, but I do eat them. When I got big, I was just eating straight-up fish, chicken, steak and all that stuff. That was fine with me, but when Josh got here, I was the same size (as now)...whether that makes me a better football player, I don't know."

CLASS CONNECTION

Linebackers **WILL COMPTON** and **SEAN FISHER** have a special connection. "Since we're both redshirt freshmen, we were just like, 'All right, let's do this. Let's have a start to, hopefully, a great career together, and stuff like that,'" Compton said after their first start together.

"It was awesome going out and knowing you had him next to you."

Diamond Vogel 
The Miracle of Paint®

THE WINNING TRADITION CONTINUES

As your partners in paint, it's up to us to give you the kind of quality and service that will make your product or project the best it can be.

www.diamondvogel.com or call 800.627.2468

Suh faces uphill battle in Heisman voting

Would you believe a Heisman Trophy candidate? It's a long-shot – or more accurately, perhaps, a no-shot. But Nebraska defensive tackle **NDAMUKONG SUH** earned considerable support as a Heisman candidate following his performance against Missouri.

Keep in mind that since the NCAA changed the rules to allow for the return of two-platoon football in 1964 only one defensive player has been voted the Heisman Trophy. Michigan cornerback **CHARLES WOODSON** was presented the award as the nation's best collegiate player in 1997.

Woodson also played wide receiver as well as returned punts.

The highest an interior defensive lineman has ever finished in voting for the Heisman Trophy during that period was third. Cornhusker middle guard **RICH GLOVER** finished there in 1972, when teammate **JOHNNY RODGERS** became the first of Nebraska's three Heisman Trophy winners.

The only other Cornhusker interior defensive lineman to finish in the top 10 in Heisman voting was middle guard **WAYNE MEYLAN**, who was ninth in 1967.

Still, Suh was in some post-Missouri Heisman discussions.

Andy Staples, SI.com:

"A defensive tackle who leads his team in tackles, drops into coverage and picks off passes is every bit as outstanding as a 4,000-yard passer or an 1,800-yard back.

Defensive Interior Linemen in Heisman voting since 1964

YR	INTERIOR LINEMAN, SCHOOL, POS., FINISH	(WINNER)
1967	Granville Liggins, Oklahoma, NG, No. 7	(Gary Beban, UCLA, QB)
1967	Wayne Meylan, Nebraska, MG, No. 9	
1969	Mike Reid, Penn State, DT, No. 5	(Steve Owens, Oklahoma, RB)
1969	Mike McCoy, Notre Dame, DT, No. 6	
1972	Rich Glover, Nebraska, MG, No. 3	(Johnny Rodgers, Nebraska, WB)
1973	Lucious Selmon, Oklahoma, NG, No. 7	(John Cappelletti, Penn State, RB)
1974	Randy White, Maryland, DT, No. 9	(Archie Griffin, Ohio State, RB)
1975	Lee Roy Selmon, Oklahoma, DT, No. 9	(Archie Griffin, Ohio State, RB)
1979	Ron Simmons, Florida State, NG, No. 9	(Charles White, USC, RB)
1981	Kenneth Sims, Texas, DT, No. 8	(Marcus Allen, USC, RB)
1991	Steve Emtman, Washington, DT, No. 4	(Desmond Howard, Michigan, WR)
1994	Warren Sapp, Miami, DT, No. 6	(Rashaan Salaam, Colorado, RB)
2007	Glenn Dorsey, LSU, DT, No. 9	(Tim Tebow, Florida, QB)

The problem is that the average Heisman voter doesn't understand how much a dominant defensive tackle can change a game.

"So, please, Heisman committee, give me a vote. I'll do exactly as you ask and select the nation's most outstanding player. Right now, that's Ndamukong Suh."

Bruce Feldman, ESPN.com:

"Suh is virtually unblockable and he does things no other DT can. He leads his team in tackles, again. That's shocking.

That simply doesn't happen these days. You might as well see a 2,500-yard rusher. Last season, he was the first DT to lead Nebraska in 35 years. To have this kind of production again – after knowing how he is the focal point of a rival's game plan

– is enough to get him on the Heisman radar. Maybe he can get in the race. I know this – he'll be in my top five this week because I doubt there are five better players in college football."

Suh was No. 2 on Sports Illustrated's weekly Heisman Watch, behind Notre Dame quarterback Jimmy Clausen, who had a bye-week to prepare for a game against USC. Texas wide receiver Jordan Shipley was No. 3, with Cincinnati quarterback Tony Pike No. 4 and Florida's Tim Tebow No. 5. **N**





READING THE FIELD

BY JOE GANZ

Watson's value extends beyond field

WHETHER PEOPLE realize it or not, having Shawn Watson stay with the program as offensive coordinator last year was a huge part of the reason Nebraska was able to have a successful season.

Not only was it great for the chemistry of the offense, but it would've been really tough for head coach Bo Pelini to bring in a whole new defense and for us to also have to learn a whole new offense, too. When Coach Pelini brought Coach Watson back, we were so comfortable with him and Ted Gilmore as the receivers coach, it was almost like nothing changed for us.

I think the reason that Coach Watson staying on from the previous staff has worked so well is he's one of those guys who always says, "You check your ego at the door," and I think he does the same thing. Coach Watson had the ability to recognize that all of the offensive coaches at Nebraska had some great ideas, and he was really open to anything that would help our offense do well, and you saw him implement a lot of ideas some of the other coaches had.

Just the way Coach Watson coaches the game of football, he makes a really difficult, mentally demanding position of playing quarterback as easy as it can possibly be. The first thing you ever do from the first time you walk into his office and he coaches you is he teaches defense – what the defense does and what each

guy's responsibility is in each defensive look or coverage. Learning the other side of the ball helps make you a much better decision-maker. The way he simplifies the quarterback position keeps you from going out there and thinking too much and allows your instincts to really take over.

As a coach, Wats is a people person and that's why he's been so successful. He knows how to read people and he knows what kinds of players want to be challenged and pushed and what kinds of players he needs to take it slow with and show some love to when they make a good read or a good play. Coach Watson knows when it's the right time to criticize a guy and when it's time to build them back up from that criticism. He knows his players, he knows what he wants out of them and he usually gets it. I can say that he really got the most out of me – as much as I could have ever asked for – as a college quarterback.

You think you know a lot about the

position and how to play quarterback until you step into the coaches' room with Wats. It just blows your mind how he teaches you and his ability to read you as a person and a player. As a coach, he doesn't look at it like he just has five quarterbacks. He sees it as he has five individuals that he coaches differently based on what they need and how he can get the most out of them as a quarterback.

Not only is Coach Watson a great coach, but he's also a really likable guy and our whole team really enjoyed him. Guys really wanted to play hard for him and that will take you a long way when it comes to 18- to 22-year-olds kids. Coach Watson and Coach Bo are pretty much cut from the same cloth. The relationship you get with him is almost like the one you have with your dad: You don't care if they're mad at you or they're yelling at you, but you care when they're disappointed with you. That's what hurts the most. **N**

NEBRASKA BASKETBALL
SEASON TICKETS ON SALE NOW
STARTING AT
\$99
TO PURCHASE TICKETS VISIT HUSKERS.COM OR CALL 1-800-881-RED HUSKERS.COM

HUSKERS

ILLUSTRATED

RADIO SHOW



1620am
the **zone**

OMAHA'S **ESPN** RADIO

NOW ON ESPN 1620 IN OMAHA

LIVE SATURDAY'S FROM 8-9 A.M. (CENTRAL) AT

WWW.1620THEZONE.COM

MISS A SHOW? LISTEN TO EVERY EPISODE AT HUSKERSILLUSTRATED.COM

2MinuteDrill



N

BRIDGEPORT, NE



THE ONLY pressure Jase Dean felt when he walked on at Nebraska was self-imposed. "There's great support from Broadwater and Bridgeport," he said. "It just feels like they're all behind you, no matter what you do. There isn't any extra pressure. I didn't want to let them down."

Dean went to high school in Bridgeport. But his hometown is Broadwater – a village with a population of 140, give or take – though he lives on a farm about 15 miles from there.

His commute to high school was 30 miles, one way. He was up early, and because of athletics, home late. In addition to earning all-state football honorable mention in Class C-1, he played basketball and competed in track. He won gold medals in the 100-, 200- and 400-meter dashes at the state track and field championships as a junior, and was runner-up in the 100 and 400 as a senior.

Walking on at Nebraska was a no-brainer for the redshirted freshman cornerback. Though he carefully considered his options, at the insistence of his parents, playing for the Cornhuskers is the dream of every boy in the state, he said. "You're just born into it."

"When I was a little kid, I used to watch all the games and pretend I was a Husker football player. That's all I wanted to do was play football for Nebraska."

His farm background served him well as a walk-on.

"Coming from a farming family, my parents were always after me: You never quit what you start," said Dean. "They were always on you no matter what you did, whether it was sports, academics, everything you did. They pushed you all the time."

"My parents are the ones I'd have to thank, who instilled the hard-work ethic in me."

Coming from a small town has other advantages as well. "I got to know everybody in my whole class," Dean said. "In fact, I knew everybody in my high school."

BRIDGEPORT, NE

County: Morrill (county seat)

Population: 1,448

Distance from Lincoln: 340 miles

DID YOU KNOW?

► Courthouse Rock and Jail Rock are among "the most famous landmarks of the mid 1800's westward migration," according to Bridgeportneb.com. They are located just south of Bridgeport on State Highway 88, near the Bridgeport Golf Course.

► Bridgeport is less than 100 miles from Cheyenne, Wyo.

Editor's note: In the second quarter of Nebraska's 27-12 victory against Missouri, Jase Dean suffered a season-ending knee injury, covering an Alex Henery punt. Dean had played in every game to that point on special teams, and was credited with five total tackles.

SIDELINES

IMPORTANCE OF PATIENCE

Success for a running back is a matter of trust in the system, and patience, according to running backs coach **TIM BECK**.

"You don't want to ever take away their instinctiveness, but on the same token, they can't get impatient and just play because, 'I've got a hunch; I've got a feeling,'" Beck said recently, in discussing, specifically,

ROY HELU, JR. "You've got to make sure he's following the footwork and the reads and his assignments and techniques, the way he's supposed to do (things)."

"Like I've always said, those 6-yard gains become 10-yard gains, become 18-yard gains, become long touchdowns. If every play he tries to make it a long touchdown, it's not going to always be pretty."

AUTHENTIC NEBRASKA FOOTBALL MEMORABILIA AUCTION

WHEN: Saturday, Oct. 31

TIME: 10 a.m. MT (11 AM CT)

SITE: Hampton Inn,
Scottsbluff, Neb.

1997 OUTLAND TROPHY

Plus - National Championship Rings (1994, 1995 & 1997); Conference Championship Rings (1993, 1994, 1995, 1997). View pictures and see terms at helbergnauction.com.

Bid live at auction site, or on the Internet. Register to bid, and bid online at Proxibid.com.

unsportsmanlike conduct



with Kevin Kugler
&

Mike'L Severe

Weekdays 2-6pm

1620^{am}
the **zone**

OMAHA'S **ESPN** RADIO

1620 AM and online www.1620thezone.com



Lance Thorell

6-1, 195, Sophomore, Defensive back, Loomis, Neb.

Hi: What did you see your role on this team being as a sophomore?

Thorell: Going week to week, I just want to work my tail off. Wherever the coaches need me and wherever I can help the team, that's what I'll do and that's what I want.

Hi: As a part of the secondary, do you ever get that feeling like you're on an island?

Thorell: Yeah, but you can't think about that when you're out there playing. You just got to play all out on every play and just take it one play at a time. But we do get put on an island. Sometimes you can be the hero and sometimes you can be the zero.

Hi: What was your favorite moment from the 2008 season?

Thorell: The Texas Tech game in general was a memorable one. I know we didn't come out with a win, but it was a good, fun game – an away game, so the whole crowd was against you. But it was a fun atmosphere and it was a fun game to play in.

Hi: What's the best football advice you've ever received?

Thorell: That's a tough one because we learn so much from these coaches. But I'm going to go with 'If you find yourself lost out there, just go hit someone.' Hopefully I don't find myself doing that much, because I don't ever want to be lost. Hopefully you're hitting guys for the right reasons.

Hi: What was the experience like transitioning to Nebraska?

Thorell: I'm a walk-on, so I really wasn't recruited. I had to come here on my own and asked to walk on. I wanted to give it shot so I came here and asked to walk on and I just went with it. I put in a lot of hard work, came in every day gave it everything I got. I guess the coaches noticed that, as well as me making plays on the ball. I remember the first spring I was here, I played cornerback and I was able to get some interceptions during spring ball. I think that helped me out a lot.

Hi: What is one thing people don't know about Lance Thorell the person?

Thorell: I love to hunt and fish, but I think that's something everybody knows. If I'm not doing something sports related, I'm out hunting or fishing. I hunt deer and pheasants and quail – pretty much anything. It's a great way to relax.

Hi: Any reason behind the No. 23 jersey?

Thorell: I originally came here at No. 39 I changed it to 23 because it was an open number. Back home, the highway that runs through my hometown is Highway 23, so I guess you could say that's how I got this number. It makes me proud to represent my hometown in that way, because Loomis is only like 396 people. Coming from such a small town – I played eight-man football in high school – it's quite an accomplishment coming from that small of an area. If (family and friends) aren't down here, they are sure getting it on TV. They're always supporting me back home.

Hi: Where do you see yourself after college?

Thorell: Probably back around my hometown. I don't really know what I'm going to do yet, but I like living out in the country. The hunting and fishing and open area, I like that and being free from everyone. Living in the city like this, I'll deal with it for the five years that I'm here.

Hi: So if you like hunting, do you know what a Virginia Tech Hokie is?

Thorell: I have no idea what a Hokie is. I'd say it's something you order at Subway. Isn't that a Hokie?

Hi: You seem like a laid-back guy. How does your demeanor compare to Coach Pelini's?

Thorell: Bo is intense, to say the least. He knows his stuff and he knows how to get the best out of everyone. He's a great guy, and I love playing underneath Bo. Advice-wise, he's said plenty (to me). He always has stuff to say out on the practice field. He's always there to support us and help us out wherever we need. He's a great guy. Once he's done explaining something, it makes a lot of sense every time.



CURTIS CRAIG

Living in and loving Lincoln

CURTIS CRAIG is 54 now...old enough to know what it was like before Tom Osborne was a coaching legend and what it took to help jump-start that whole process.

Rewind the clock to 1977 when Osborne was in his fifth year as Nebraska's head coach and getting prepared for the second game of Curtis Craig's senior season as the Huskers' starting wingback.

You might remember what happened in the first game that season. Washington State stunned the Huskers, 19-10, and someone wearing a hound's tooth hat was coming to Lincoln next.

"We were so excited to play Bear Bryant and Alabama," Craig said. "It was a fun game, probably the highlight for me as a Husker. Even though the score was close (31-24), we manhandled Alabama that whole game. I scored a touchdown and made some great catches, and I remember Bear Bryant coming up to me afterwards. He told me 'great game, son'. I'll never forget shaking his hand. It was a big deal to shake the hand of a legend."

And an even bigger deal to help position Osborne for legendary status himself.

When Craig was a freshman in Davenport, Iowa, he was focused on one football program and one only.

"Nebraska was winning national

championships, and I loved Johnny Rodgers and Rich Glover,"

Craig recalled. "Everyone I knew thought it was neat to be right next door to the state of Nebraska. It got us dreaming. We were all thinking the same thing: Wouldn't it be something if we could go to Nebraska and play for national championships, too?"

Even though that didn't happen for Craig, he points out that Nebraska won three of its four bowl games while he was a Husker – over Florida in the Sugar Bowl, Texas Tech in the Bluebonnet Bowl and North Carolina in the Liberty Bowl.

"The only (bowl) loss we had was against Arizona State (17-14, in Tempe, Ariz.)," Craig pointed out. "That was a tough loss because we were 10-1 going into that game, and they were unbeaten. We may have lost, but everyone will you



CURTIS CRAIG

LETTERS: 1975-76-77

POSITION: Wingback

WIFE: Terri

CHILDREN: Elijah, 19, Brianna, 15, and Erica, 11

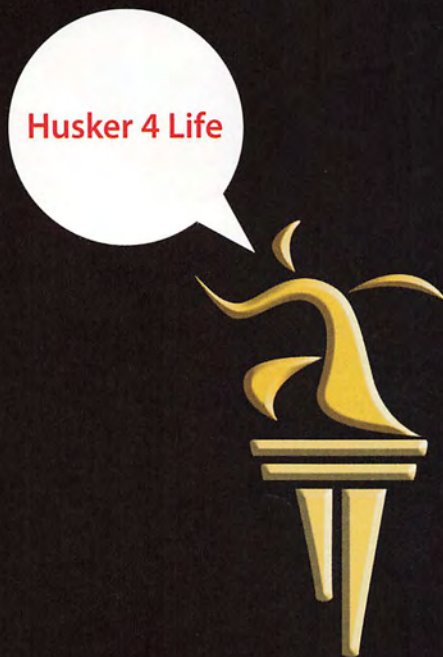
CURRENT: Campus Supervisor, Lincoln (Neb.) Southeast High School

RESIDENCE: Lincoln, Neb.

about tell the impact we had. The Fiesta Bowl wasn't a big game until we played there. We helped put it on the map."

And Nebraska put Craig on the right path for life after football. After working in southern and northern California and in his home state of Iowa, Curtis (who has a degree in criminal justice), his wife Terri (who has a PhD in pharmacy from USC) and children Elijah and Brianna moved to Lincoln 13 years ago. Two years later, daughter No. 2, Erica, was born.

"We wanted to get back to the Midwest," Craig said. "We wanted to live in a great place to raise a family. We love Lincoln. She was a basketball player here when I was a football player, and we met in the West Stadium weight room. Marrying Terri is the best decision I've ever made, but it never would have happened if we hadn't accepted our scholarships." **N**



Nebraska
SPORTS COUNCIL

NebraskaSportsCouncil.com



STATE OF THE HUSKERS

BY CURT MCKEEVER

Suh for Heisman? He deserves consideration

IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE we're halfway through the season, so let's tackle another topic that's not easy for some media folks to sort out. I'm talking about the dominating play of Husker defensive tackle Ndamukong Suh and whether it makes him a bona-fide candidate for the Heisman Trophy.

The Heisman was established to recognize the most outstanding player in college football. In reality, however, it has essentially become reserved for offensive skill-position types. Eight of the last nine winners have been quarterbacks. USC running back Reggie Bush was the exception, in 2005.

The only player who played primarily on defense to win the Heisman was Michigan's Charles Woodson in 1997. More on that, and how it might apply to Suh, later. But you can already see how the odds are stacked against Nebraska's play-making senior.

Not only is Woodson in a group by himself, but since teams stopped utilizing players full time on both sides of the ball, only one defender -- Pittsburgh defensive end Hugh Green, in 1980 -- has managed to finish as high as second in the Heisman balloting.

Last year, USC linebacker Rey Maualuga got the most support for a defensive player, and he finished ninth. Former Ohio State linebacker James Laurinaitis was voted the 2006 Nagurski Award, representative of

the nation's best defensive player, the 2007 Butkus Award for being the top linebacker and the 2008 Ronnie Lott Trophy, which honors personal character and athletic performance for a standout defensive player. But Laurinaitis never got enough Heisman consideration to warrant an invitation to the presentation ceremony.

"To even have a chance on defense you'd have to play at the cornerback position or at safety -- somewhere where you can return interceptions for touchdowns," Laurinaitis told *The New York Times* in 2007. "Whenever you watch highlights, it's all touchdowns. You're not going to see the guy who made 15 tackles."

Could that attitude be changing? It likely depends on whether there's a clear-cut favorite.

Consider that before having his monster game at Missouri -- where he tipped and then intercepted a pass to set up Nebraska's go-ahead touchdown, forced a fumble, had three quarterback hurries and six tackles -- Suh was nowhere to be seen on Heisman watch lists.

In 1972, Nebraska middle guard Rich Glover finished third in the Heisman balloting after making an astounding 100 tackles (nine for loss) in 12 games. After five games, Suh was on pace to finish the 12-game regular season with 77 tackles, including 17 for losses.

Even more eye-catching, though, was the fact that he ranked No. 6 nationally with an average of 1.6 pass break-ups per contest. With few exceptions, that's a statistic dominated by cornerbacks and safeties.

CBSsports.com's five-member panel handicapping the Heisman race must have noticed.

The week after the Missouri game, those "experts" had quarterbacks in their top five, with Notre Dame quarterback Jimmy Clausen as the front-runner, followed by Florida's 2007 Heisman winner Tim Tebow, Cincinnati's Tony Pike and Kansas' Todd Reesing, with Houston's Case Keenum next.

Suh, earning two third-place votes, came in at No. 6.

Which leads me back to Woodson, who returned punts and occasionally played receiver for Michigan. Undoubtedly, his punt return for a touchdown against Ohio State in the final regular-season game left a definite impression on Heisman voters. But in that game, he also picked off a pass in the end zone, adding to his reputation for coming up with his biggest plays in the biggest moments.

Suh has the same penchant of those situations, which makes him more likely to be more than a flavor of the month.

Is he still a long-shot? Yeah.

But the guy Woodson beat out for the 1997 Heisman? Fellow by the name of Peyton Manning. **N**

THE WHOLE STORY ON **NEBRASKA** FOOTBALL THIS SEASON

Where serious Huskers fans go for the inside scoop

Nebraska football coverage includes:

- Expert pre- and post-game analysis
- Exclusive video highlights
- First looks at next year's recruits

PLUS!

interact with experts and insiders on
our exclusive message boards

TRY HUSKERSILLUSTRATED.COM
FREE FOR 7 DAYS!



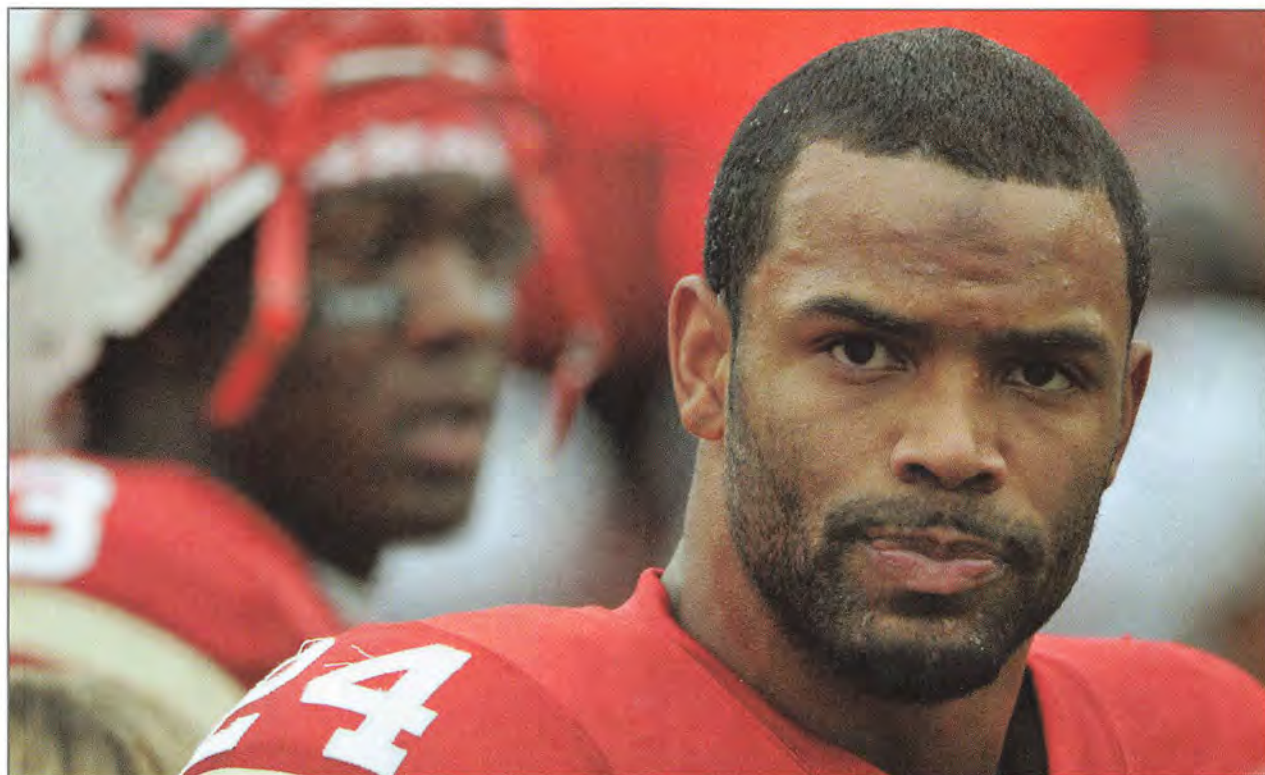


PHOTO BY RANDY HAMPTON

Lateral dooms Huskers

With momentum already in Texas Tech's favor thanks to a game-opening touchdown drive, the Red Raiders got a gift from Nebraska.

The Cornhuskers appeared to have a good chance to tie the score – or at least dent the scoreboard – on their second drive when disaster struck. A pass by quarterback **ZAC LEE** to wide receiver **NILES PAUL** was ruled a lateral and Paul, disgusted he didn't make the catch and thinking the pass was incomplete, stood and watched as Texas Tech's **DANIEL HOWARD** scooped up the ball and returned it 82 yards for a TD, putting the Red Raiders ahead 14-0 with 4:52 left in

the first quarter.

Nebraska, it seemed, never recovered. Texas Tech went on to take a 24-3 halftime lead during its 31-10 victory over the No. 15-ranked Cornhuskers at Memorial Stadium.

While saying it shouldn't have been a factor, Lee said the impact of Howard's 82-yard fumble return was difficult to deny.

"We felt like we were going to score there," Lee said. "It's just one of those things where we've got to hop on the ball. We've got to be aware of what's going on and make sure we hop on it before they do."

Paul, who was running a "bubble" route, said he had no idea that the pass was a lateral.

"I didn't get the depth I was supposed

to take for a pass," Paul said. "The ball was low and inside. It hit my finger tips. It should have been caught. I thought it was down – we all thought it was down."

That assumption, Nebraska coach Bo Pelini said, was a huge mistake.

"We stopped," Pelini said of the play. "You can't stop. You can't stop on the play. I give (Texas Tech) credit for doing that."

Trailing 14-0, offensive coordinator Shawn Watson said the Huskers were forced to somewhat alter their game plan. Nebraska finished with just 70 yards rushing and 285 total yards.

"You can't shoot yourself in the foot and get behind like that," Watson said. "We've got to do a better job – a much better job." **N**

– by Terry Douglass



PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

QUARTERBACK COMPETITION

Following Nebraska's 31-10 home loss to Texas Tech, Cornhuskers' head coach **BO PELINI** said he and his coaching staff will "absolutely" re-evaluate the team's quarterback competition.

Nebraska starting quarterback **ZAC LEE** struggled for the second consecutive game and for the third time in six starts this season, prompting the Husker coaching staff to insert true freshman backup **CODY GREEN** at two different times in the second half. In fact, Green led Nebraska to its lone touchdown against the Red Raiders, hitting **KHIRY COOPER** for a 13-yard scoring pass with 8:40 to play.

"What I liked about what Cody did was he really competed," Nebraska offensive coordinator **SHAWN WATSON**

said. "I thought he made some nice throws. He had some young things that he did, but he doesn't have a lot of that.

"He does a nice job with his composure and his poise. I like that."

Lee was 16-of-22 passing with no interceptions, but had just 128 yards and was sacked four times by Texas Tech.

Save for the 27 fourth-quarter points Nebraska scored on Oct. 8 at Missouri and the Huskers have just three points in seven quarters of Big 12 Conference play with Lee at quarterback. He's a combined 57-of-75 passing (76 percent) for 791 yards passing with seven TDs and one interception against NU's three Sun Belt Conference foes, but is 41-of-85 (48.2 percent) for 422 yards and three TDs with two interceptions against

BCS-conference schools.

"Everybody has bumps in the road and today wasn't Zac's day," Green said. "He can go out next week against Iowa State and light the world up. That's the type of player he is and he'll bounce back from this."

However, when informed that both Pelini and Watson indicated that the quarterback job might be open for competition, Green said he'll be ready to press for a starting spot.

"Coach Watson and Coach Pelini always say, 'Compete – if you can go take a guy's job, take a guy's job, but the main thing is just compete,'" Green said. "That makes you better and it makes the other guy better. That's the only thing you can do."



PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK

BURKHEAD OUT

Nebraska's I-back depth took a hit early last week as coach **BO PELINI** announced that backup **REX BURKHEAD** suffered a foot injury in practice on Oct. 12 and will be out indefinitely.

A true freshman, Burkhead was Nebraska's second-leading rusher and has also had eight receptions for 66 yards. He also averaged 18.2 yards on four punt returns.

"Any time you have a football player out, you're going to miss him," Pelini said during his weekly press conference. "I feel worse for the kid. He's a prideful, tough competitive guy."

With Burkhead out and starting I-back **ROY HELU JR.** battling a shoulder stinger, **MARCUS MENDOZA** and **AUSTIN JONES** each had one carry against Texas Tech. However, Pelini said Burkhead's absence was not a factor in the loss to the Red Raiders.

SUPPORTING WATSON

Despite Nebraska's struggles to score against Texas Tech, head coach **BO PELINI** offered words of support for offensive coordinator Shawn Watson.

"He's stood the test of time," Pelini said. "We don't point fingers around here. It's a team loss."

"**SHAWN WATSON** is a good coach. That

hasn't changed and that won't change. He's a hell of a coach."

The Huskers entered the game 40th nationally in scoring offense, but were limiting to 285 total yards. Nebraska had 103 total yards and three first downs in the first half.

DISAPPOINTING DRIVE

Nebraska got behind the eight-ball early against Texas Tech. Making his first collegiate start on the road, Red Raiders' quarterback Steven Sheffield guided his team on a nine-play, 80-yard TD drive, completing a 16-yard scoring pass to Baron Batch for a 7-0 lead less than five minutes into the contest.

Texas Tech was twice able to convert on third-and-long plays to keep its opening march alive. Sheffield first connected with Lyle Leong, who caught a tipped ball for a 34-yard gain to convert a third-and-13 play, and later got a first down on a third-and-17, finding Detron Lewis for a 22-yard strike to the Nebraska 23-yard line.

"That's the most disappointing thing I've seen in a long time," Nebraska coach Bo Pelini said. "You have two times where it's third and (long) and, again, we were in position and we didn't execute."

"We didn't make plays and we gave them the momentum in the football game because of that."

QUICKLY



HELU HURTING?

While Nebraska I-back **ROY HELU JR.** was limited to 16 carries for 68 yards in the loss to Texas Tech, Huskers' offensive coordinator **SHAWN WATSON** insisted that a seemingly less-than-healthy Helu wasn't the reason for his relatively quiet day.

"We went into this game to do what we do," Watson said. "We didn't change what we do from Roy's perspective."

Instead, Watson said Nebraska's 24-3 halftime deficit had a larger impact on Helu getting just seven second-half carries for 28 yards.

WORTH NOTING

► Nebraska's game captains were junior defensive end Pierre Allen, sophomore cornerback Alfonzo Dennard, senior center Jacob Hickman and junior receiver Niles Paul.

► The Huskers still lead the all-time series against Texas Tech 7-4, but the Red Raiders have won four straight meetings.

► After winning its first 12 conference home openers in Big 12 history, Nebraska has lost its last two. Last year, Missouri defeated the Huskers in their league home opener.

► True freshmen I-back Dontrayevous Robinson made his first appearance for Nebraska.

PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK



Home or Away,

An Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.



You're Covered.

bcbsne.com

21

TEXAS TECH

10

NEBRASKA



PHOTO BY RANDY HAMPTON



PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK



FAN OF THE GAME

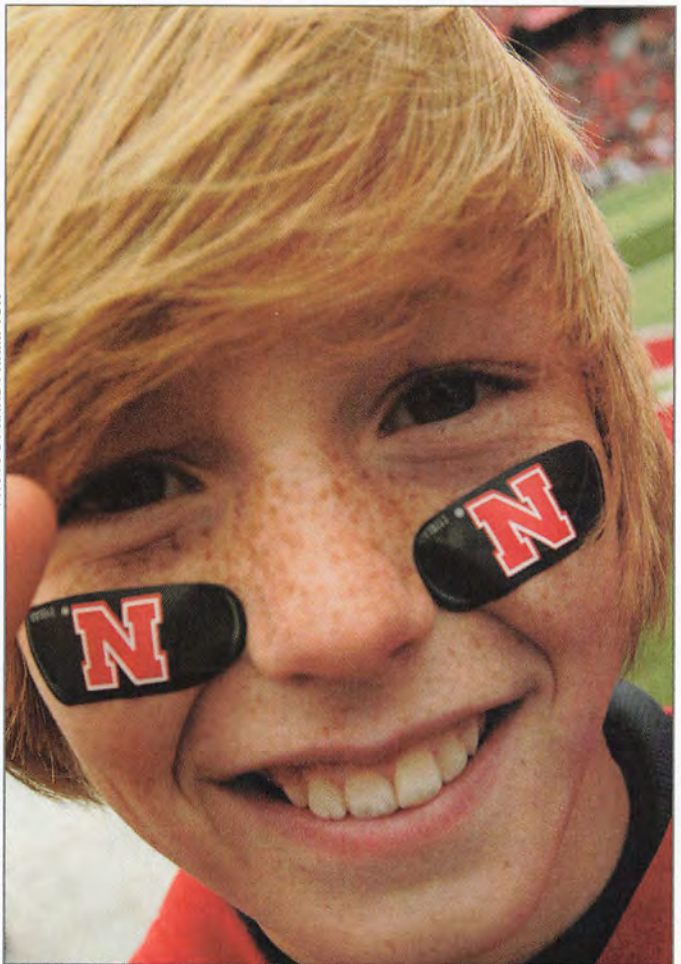


PHOTO BY RANDY HAMPTON

Hunter Jones, age 11, from Kearney, got his face decorated at Husker Nation Pavilion to show his Huster spirit.

PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK

REPORT CARD

RUSHING:

ROY HELU, JR. averaged 4.2 yards per carry, with limited carries. He was on the sideline, helmet off, during the fourth quarter with a stinger. "I want to see us being able to run the football, consistently, knock somebody off the ball," said coach **BO PELINI**. "And we're going back to work."

PASSING:

ZAC LEE and **CODY GREEN** combined to complete 23-of-38 passes. But that masked overthrows, missed receivers running open, drops and breakdowns in pass protection; Lee and Green were sacked a combined five times.

RUSHING DEFENSE:

Tech finished with a net of 25 yards rushing, an average of only 1 yard per carry. Even adding back 42 yards in losses, the Red Raiders couldn't consistently run the ball. Well over half of their rushing yards came on three plays.

PASSING DEFENSE:

The Red Raiders, who were averaging 443.5 yards passing per game, managed just 234 yards through the air. And **STEVEN SHEFFIELD** was sacked five times. But Tech made some big plays. Two in particular upset Pelini, both on third-and-long during the opening touchdown drive. "That's the most disappointing thing in a long time," he said of the conversions.

KICKING/SPECIAL TEAMS:

After the Cornhuskers scored a touchdown to cut the deficit to 24-10 with 8:40 remaining, Tech responded with a 40-yard kickoff return for good field position at its own 46-yard line. In addition, Nebraska's punting average was an untypical 35.2 yards. "They played better than us in every phase," Pelini said.

FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS

NEBRASKA STARS

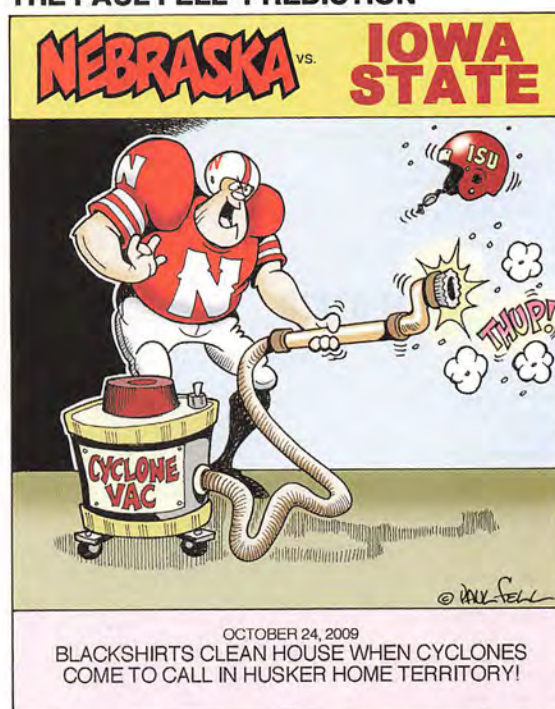
► Omaha Skutt quarterback Christian Dudzik accounted for 278 yards of offense and three touchdowns, along with forced fumble on defense in a 33-17 victory over previously unbeaten Waverly.

► Blair running back Ryan Randall had 244 yards and four touchdowns in a 40-7 win over South Sioux City. Randall is the leading rusher in the state of Nebraska with 2,070 yards and 29 touchdowns through eight games.

► Burke wide receiver Lavant Moore had five catches for 105 yards and one touchdown in a 13-10 overtime loss to Millard North. Moore currently leads the state with 46 catches for 921 yards and 11 touchdowns.

► 7-0 Boys Town's defense recorded their sixth consecutive shutout of the season. The Cowboy defense has allowed just six points all season.

THE PAUL FELL PREDICTION



QUICK PICKS



Aaron Babcock
(31-15/4-4)



Mike Babcock
(30-16/4-4)



Sean Callahan
(29-17/4-4)



John Talman
(30-16/4-4)



Matt Davison
(31-15/6-2)

(Season/Last Week)	Aaron Babcock (31-15/4-4)	Mike Babcock (30-16/4-4)	Sean Callahan (29-17/4-4)	John Talman (30-16/4-4)	Matt Davison (31-15/6-2)
Iowa State at Nebraska	NU 24-10	NU 27-10	NU 37-17	NU 28-17	NU 42-12
Oklahoma State at Baylor	OSU 42-14	OSU 38-20	OSU 48-27	OSU 31-14	OSU 44-17
Colorado at Kansas State	CU 24-17	KSU 35-31	CU 27-23	CU 34-21	CU 31-27
Oklahoma at Kansas	KU 21-20	OU 28-15	OU 27-17	OU 35-31	OU 42-21
Texas at Missouri	UT 35-9	UT 31-10	UT 41-31	UT 42-34	UT 34-31
Texas A&M at Texas Tech	TT 48-13	TT 52-21	TT 55-30	TT 55-12	TT 48-24
Penn State at Michigan	PSU 21-17	PSU 28-24	PSU 31-27	PSU 28-24	PSU 31-27
Auburn at LSU	LSU 24-17	LSU 15-13	LSU 23-21	LSU 29-18	LSU 20-17

GameStats

SUMMARY

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

SCORING

Oct. 17, 2009
Memorial Stadium • Lincoln, Neb.
Attendance: 86,107

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Tot
Texas Tech	14	10	0	7	31
Nebraska	0	3	0	7	10

First Quarter

TT	NU
Batch Pass from Sheffield 16-yards (Williams Kick) 10:21 Drive: 9 plays 80 yds 4:39	7 0
Howard TD FUMB (Williams Kick) 04:52	14 0

Second Quarter

TT	NU
Sheffield 1-yard Run (Williams Kick) 06:56 Drive: 12 plays 65 yds 6:40	21 0
Henery 21-yard Field Goal 01:47 Drive: 11 plays 74 yds 5:02	21 3
Williams 32-yard Field Goal 00:03 Drive: 5 plays 67 yds 1:39	24 3

Fourth Quarter

NU	TT
Cooper Pass from Green 13-yards (Henery Kick) 08:40 Drive: 7 plays 40 yds 1:23	24 10
Sheffield 1-yard Run (Williams Kick) 03:30 Drive: 9 plays 54 yds 5:00	31 10

TEAM STATS

	NU	TT
Total First Downs	15	16
Rushing.....	2	4
Passing.....	10	11
Penalty.....	3	1
Rushing Attempts	25	30
Yards Gained Rushing	71	94
Yards Lost Rushing	46	24
Net Yards Rushing	25	70
Net Yards Passing	234	215
Passes Attempted.....	32	38
Passes Completed.....	23	23
Had Intercepted.....	0	1
Percent Completion.....	71.9%	60.5%
Yards per Attempt.....	7.3	5.7
Yards per Completion.....	10.2	9.3
Total Offensive Plays	57	68
Total Net Yards	259	285
Avg. Gain Per Play.....	4.5	4.2
Fumbles: No-Lost	1-0	1-1
Penalties: No-Yards	4-40	12-95
Punts: No-Yards	6-216	5-176
Avg. Per Punt.....	36.0	35.2
Avg. Net Punt.....	25.3	33.4
Punt Returns: No-Yards	1-9	5-64
Kickoff Returns: No-Yards	2-58	5-108
Interception Returns: No-Yards	1-7	0-0
Fumble Returns: No-Yards	1-82	0-0
Miscellaneous Yards	0	0
Possession Time	29:56	30:04
Third-Down Conversions	6-14	6-15
Percentage.....	42.9%	40.0%
Fourth-Down Conversions	1-1	1-2
Percentage.....	100.0%	50.0%
Sacks By: No-Yards	5-22	5-42

NEBRASKA

Rushing	No	Gain	Lost	Net	Avg	TD	Lg
Helu Jr.	16	68	0	68	4.2	0	11
Mendoza	1	3	0	3	3.0	0	3
Green	2	4	3	1	0.5	0	4
Jones	1	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Lee	9	19	19	0	0.0	0	7
Paul	1	0	2	-2	-2.0	0	0
Total	30	94	24	70	2.3	0	11

Passing	Att	Comp	%	Int	Yds	TD	Lg
Lee	22	16	72.7	0	128	0	27
Green	16	7	43.8	1	87	1	30
Total	38	23	60.5	1	215	1	30

Receiving	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Brooks	5	66	0	26
Holt	2	34	0	30
Mendoza	5	32	0	9
Helu Jr.	1	27	0	27
Cooper	3	23	1	13
McNeill	2	14	0	10
Gilleylen	2	12	0	8
Paul	1	4	0	4
Jones	1	2	0	2
Reed	1	1	0	1
Total	23	215	1	30

Punt Ret	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Paul	5	64	0	18

Kick Ret	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Marlowe	3	61	0	30
Dennard	1	25	0	25
Legate	1	22	0	22
Total	5	108	0	30

Punting	No	Avg	Lg	Blk	TB	FC	50+	In 20
Henery	5	35.2	46	0	0	1	0	2
Total	5	35.2	46	0	0	1	0	2

Field Goals	Made	Att	Lg	Blkd
Henery	1	2	21	0
Total	1	2	21	0

Defense	Tac	Asst	Tot	TFL	Sac	PD	FF	FR
Dillard	8	4	12	4-6	0-0	0	0	0
Allen	2	5	7	2-10	2-10	0	0	0
Gomes	2	4	6	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Crick	2	3	5	2-12	1-10	0	0	0
Hagg	4	1	5	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Amukamara	2	2	4	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
O'Hanlon	2	2	4	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Suh	4	0	4	2-10	0-0	0	0	0
Asante	0	3	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Turner	1	2	3	1.5-20	1.5-20	0	0	0
Dennard	1	1	2	1-1	0-0	1	0	0
Cammack	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Cassidy	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Compton	0	1	1	0.5-2	0.5-2	0	0	0
Grove	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0

Interception Ret	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Total	0	0	0	0

TEXAS TECH

Rushing	No	Gain	Lost	Net	Avg	TD	Lg
Batch	12	40	2	38	3.2	0	13
Jeffers	2	21	2	19	9.5	0	21
Sheffield	11	10	42	-32	-2.9	2	10
Total	25	71	46	25	1.0	2	21

Passing	Att	Comp	%	Int	Yds	TD	Lg
Sheffield	32	23	71.9	0	234	1	58
Total	32	23	71.9	0	234	1	58

Receiving	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Lewis	5	100	0	58
Leong	3	46	0	34
Batch	6	25	1	16
Franks	1	18	0	18
Torres	2	18	0	11
Britton	1	16	0	16
Jeffers	4	8	0	5
Swindall	1	3	0	3
Total	23	234	1	58

Punt Ret	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Zouzalik	1	9	0	9
Total	1	9	0	9

Kick Ret	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Stephens	1	40	0	40
Zouzalik	1	18	0	18
Total	2	58	0	40

Punting	No	Avg	Lg	Blk	TB	FC	50+	In 20
Erleben	6	36.0	47	0	0	1	0	0
Total	6	36.0	47	0	0	1	0	0

Field Goals	Made	Att	Lg	Blkd
Williams	1	1	32	0
Total	1	1	32	0

Defense	Tac	Asst	Tot	TFL	Sac	PD	FF	FR
Duncan	3	5	8	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Mitchem	3	4	7	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Sharpe	4	3	7	4-19	4-19	1	0	0
Bird	4	2	6	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Dewhurst	3	3	6	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Davis	2	3	5	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Johnson	4	1	5	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Wall	3	2	5	0-0	0-0	2	0	0
Whitlock	2	3	5	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Henley	4	0	4	1-3	1-3	0	0	0
Howard	2	2	4	0-0	0-0	0	0	1
Moore	4	0	4	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Charbonnet	1	2	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Jones	0	2	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Williams	2	0	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Burns	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Franks	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Howard	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0

Interception Ret	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Mitchem	1	7	0	7

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION

1. PUBLICATION TITLE: Huskers Illustrated; 2. PUBLICATION NO.: 0279-3474; 3. DATE OF FILING: Oct. 1, 2009; 4. Issue frequency: monthly January through May and August, bi-monthly June/July and weekly September through mid-December except open dates; 5. Issues Published Annually: 19; 6. Annual Subscription Price: \$51.95; 7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication: 2623 Regency Rd., Lexington, KY 40503-2922; 8. Complete Mailing Address of the Headquarters or General Business Office of the Publisher: PO Box 549, Shelbyville, KY 40066-0549; 9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Address of Publisher, Editor and Managing Editor: Publisher - Aaron Babcock, 7755 S. 23rd St., Lincoln, NE 6812-9913; Editor - Aaron Babcock, 7755 S. 23rd St., Lincoln, NE 6812-9913; Managing Editor - n/a; 10. Owner (Name and complete mailing address): Landmark Publications, Inc., whose sole stockholder is Landmark Community Newspapers, Inc., PO Box 549, Shelbyville, KY 40066; 11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees and Other Security Holders: None; 12. Tax Status: Has not changed during preceding 12 months; 13. Publication Title: Huskers Illustrated; 14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: Sept. 21, 2009; 15. Extent and Nature of Circulation (avg during preceding 12 months, single issue nearest to filing date): A. Total No. Copies (Net Press Run): 7,837, 7,684; B. Paid/Requested Circulation (by mail and outside the mail): 1. Paid/Requested Outside-County Subscriptions: 5,176, 5,212; 2. Paid in-County Subscriptions: 0; 3. Sales through dealers, vendors, etc.: 1,127, 836; 4. Other classes mailed through the USPS: 1,041, 1,023; C. Total Paid and/or Requested Distribution: 7,344, 7,071; D. Free Distribution (by mail and outside the mail): 1. Free Outside-County: 0; 2. Free In-County: 0; 3. Free through other classes mailed through the USPS: 0; 4. Free outside the mail: 374, 436; E. Total Free Distribution: 7,718, 7,507; F. Total Distribution: 7,718, 7,507; G. Copies Not Distributed: 119, 177; H. Total: 7,837, 7,684; I. Percent Paid and/or Requested: 95%, 94%.

Signed: Aaron Babcock, General Manager/Editor

Rhoads learning the ropes as first-year head coach

BY STEVEN M. SIPPLE

IN THE MIDST of his first go-round as a head coach, Iowa State's Paul Rhoads has been taken by surprise by only one aspect of his job.

"It's the number of visitors I have come through my office door, and things I have to deal with on a daily basis," the 42-year-old said. "Although they do affect the program going forward, they don't affect the game and game preparation quite as much. It's taken up more of my time than maybe I first anticipated."

A native of Ankeny, Iowa, Rhoads credits his support staff for helping him manage aspects of the program that aren't directly related to football. However, Rhoads is trying to be as hands-on as possible.

"Getting the program started, it's very important to me to have my fingers on most of the decisions and guidance as to where I think we need to go," he said. "I think that will lessen next year and beyond. I'm happy with how everything's going that way. But I don't have my hands as much on the football part of it."

In that regard, Rhoads leans on his coordinators -- Tom Herman on the offensive side and Wally Burnham on defense.

Iowa State has made tangible improvement over last season, when the Cyclones finished 2-10 overall and 0-8 in the Big 12 Conference under former head coach Gene Chizik. Through their first six

PAUL RHOADS



games, they had already surpassed their 2008 victory total.

Rhoads, who spent 2008 as defensive coordinator at Auburn after eight years in the same role at Pitt, said his players took close losses against K-State and Kansas hard -- which was a good sign for the program.

"In my past, I've sat on too many planes and too many buses where kids got over losses too fast," he said. "This football team hasn't done that at all. We believe we can win football games."

"Our effort has been fantastic, in my opinion. It's been that way all season. You have to have it. But effort alone doesn't win you football games, obviously."

NOTES

► Turns out, former Nebraska head coach Frank Solich has a keen eye for future head coaches. Before hiring Bo Pelini in December of 2002 as Husker defensive

coordinator, Solich interviewed Rhoads for the same job.

► Through six games, Iowa State ranked 14th nationally in rushing offense, averaging 209.5 yards per game. Junior Alexander Robinson paved the way, averaging 109.0.

IOWA STATE QUICK FACTS

Head coach: Paul Rhoads, 1st year, 3-3 overall, 0-2 Big 12

Enrollment: 27,945

Colors: Cardinal and gold

2009 record: 2-10 (0-8 Big 12)

2009 SCHEDULE

9/3 North Dakota State, W, 34 - 17
9/12 Iowa, L, 3-35
9/19 at Kent State, W, 34-14
9/26 Army, W, 31 - 10
10/3 at Kansas State, L, 23 - 24 (L)
10/10 at Kansas, L, 36 - 41
10/17 Baylor, 6 p.m.
10/24 at Nebraska, 11:30 a.m., FSN
10/31 at Texas A&M, TBA
11/7 Oklahoma State, TBA
11/14 Colorado, TBA
11/21 at Missouri, TBA

HUSKER FLAVOR

FORMER HUSKERS PUT THEIR STAMP ON NEBRASKA HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

BY BRIAN ROSENTHAL

Andy Means could see that his Omaha Millard South players were getting rattled.

Truth be told, Means himself was starting to lose patience, too.

His team trailed 41-21 in the third quarter, and the opponent, Elkhorn High, was riding a huge surge of momentum, having scored 20 straight points.

Means called timeout and went to the huddle.

"I just told the kids, 'Listen, you've got to calm down and play,' because the kids were getting a little bit out of control," Means said.

"They were looking at us, and we — well, we're down 41-21, so we're

kind of sweating a little bit. But I just went out there and told them, 'Calm down,' and the rest of the game, I was pretty calm."

Means was reminded of a valuable coaching philosophy: If your players can see you're calm and poised, they'll probably play the same way.

It's a lesson Means learned while playing at Nebraska under Tom Osborne.

"When I start to get a little excited, a little too excited, I kind of go back and remember him," said Means, a Holdrege, Neb., native who lettered at cornerback for Nebraska from 1978 to 1980.

Not that he didn't get excited – he did get excited – but he always wanted to make sure that he was in control of his emotions and everything. In this day and age, with coaches who scream and holler and everything, it's still pretty amazing he kept the demeanor he had. That helped us, I thought, as players."

And it helped Means and the Patriots on this night. They rallied to beat Elkhorn 47-41, winning when Quentin Urban blocked a field goal and returned it 74 yards for a touchdown on the game's final play.

Millard South was undefeated through the first week of October, and Means, in his sixth year coaching the Patriots, was 48-16. Across town, a couple of other former Husker players are also leading strong

high school programs. Tim Johnk was 30-8 in his fourth year at Omaha Gross – the Cougars had won five of their first six games – and Matt Turman was 51-21 at Omaha Skutt. The Skyhawks also entered the second week of October undefeated and ranked No. 2 in Class B.

All three coaches say they've implemented various coaching tactics or Xs and Os – or both – from their time at Nebraska, and from watching Osborne.

"He was the best model of

all," Means said.

Johnk, a Schuyler native who lettered at fullback from 1989 to 1991, said he bases his entire practice plan and the day-to-day operations on what he learned from Osborne. Gross also runs option football, an Osborne staple.

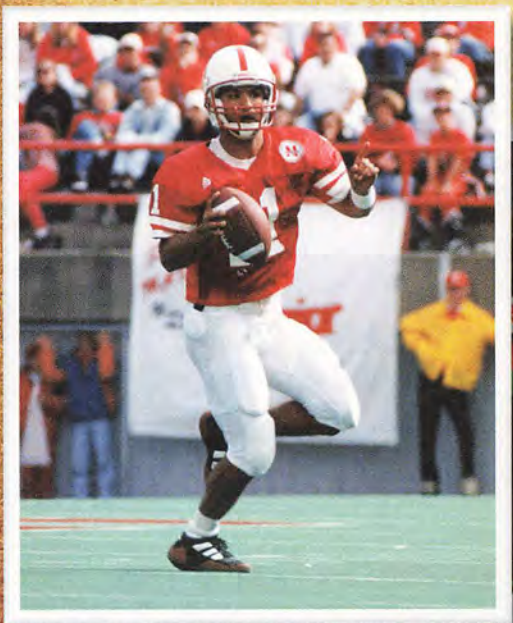
"That's my background, and a lot of that stems from Coach Osborne and that philosophy," Johnk said. "It's obviously something that's worked well

for us the last four years I've been here. It's something I'll continue to do."

Johnk was an assistant at Gross from 1992 to 2000 before leaving to become head coach at Class C-1 Logan View, where he spent six seasons.



TIM JOHNK



MATT TURMAN



Directing a smaller program “was the absolute best decision I’ve ever made,” Johnk said.

There he honed his managerial skills and remembered one of the areas in which Osborne greatly excelled: Preparation.

“As a head coach, the finer points of the game and the attention to detail were always things that Coach Osborne ... he never left a stone



ANDY MEANS

un-turned,” Johnk said. “That’s something that as a head coach now, I want to make sure that I’m very thorough in not only teaching our kids, but also on a day-to-day deal, in making sure that our kids are well-prepared.

“That’s the thing (Osborne) talked about more than anything throughout the course of his entire career, was just the preparation. If you prepare well, you’re going to play well and you’re going to win. That’s really the same philosophy I’ve tried to use as a head coach.”

It worked at Logan View, where Johnk took the Raiders to the playoffs each of his last

four seasons. The school had one state playoffs appearance in the previous 30 years.

Johnk also said his position coach, Frank Solich, was a great coaching influence.

“Just about the game and how to treat players and how to coach players, expectations, preparations,” Johnk said. “All those things that go into coaching. Those are things that I learned a lot from him.”

Turman coached at Skutt for six seasons, took a year off as his wife completed schooling in Virginia to become an orthopedic surgeon, and is back at Skutt for his second season. His father, Tim, is also a high school coach. What Matt



hadn’t already learned from his dad he learned from Osborne.

The younger Turman was helping coach the Shrine Bowl all-star game this summer, and his team was conducting a walk-through at Memorial Stadium the day before the game. Turman went to Osborne’s office to say hello to his former coach, who’s now Nebraska’s athletic director.

“He was sitting in there watching film,” said Turman, a walk-on quarterback who played from 1994 to 1996. “I asked why, and he said, ‘I’m just trying to figure out if we’re going to be any good

this year.'

"I think once it's in your blood, it's always in your blood. I try to take that same commitment and work ethic into the preparation part of the game."

Turman also remembers hearing from Osborne after Skutt went undefeated and won the 2005 Class B state championship. Osborne, at the time, was running for office.

"I get a hand-written note from him telling me congratulations. It's that type of stuff ... just the fact he cares

so much about his players," Turman said.

"That's kind of the family atmosphere that I try to build with my players. Let them know I'm not just concerned with what happens in their lives from 3:30 to 6, or from 7 to 9 on Friday nights. I care about what they're doing as a person and what's going on in their lives."

Of course, Osborne's pupils deserve some credit of their own, too. They've already become mentors themselves – Means said he's had four or

five former players help with his team – and look forward to continued success at their respective schools.

"If I can be successful and kind of throw some light back on (Osborne), show people what he was all about ... if we're successful, people automatically associate it with, 'Well, he must've learned something from Coach Osborne,'" Means said. "And I did. If that's what they think, that's all the better, because I want him to get as much credit for everything as possible." **N**



STAY IN THE GAME

GET SCREENED FOR COLON CANCER TODAY



YOU HAVE THE POWER TO STAY IN THE GAME OF LIFE.
Starting at age 50, you can reduce your risk of colon cancer with regular screening.

StayInTheGame**NE**.com



"If you remember watching me play for the Huskers, ask your doctor about getting screened for colon cancer."

JERRY TAGGE

*All-American Quarterback,
1970-71*



CDC Funds #U55/CCU725047

Earning immediate dividends

BY RICK SHAW

It didn't take the Nebraska coaches long to capitalize on their team's nationally televised win at Missouri. Less than 48 hours after the Huskers defeated the top-25 ranked Tigers, the Big Red received an oral commitment from highly touted defensive line recruit

CHASE ROME.

Ironically, the 6-foot-3, 290-pound Rome hails from Columbia, Mo., Rock Bridge and is ranked the No. 4 prospect in the state and among the top 250 high school players in the country (4 stars) by Rivals.com. A commitment to Oklahoma State since last spring, Rome changed his pledge to Nebraska a couple of weeks after returning from an official visit to Lincoln.

"This all just happened in the last week or so," Rome said. "The first time I went up there and left, I thought it was a cool tradition from a surface-value point of view. The more I learned about it, the more I liked it and I could even see myself there. Then I started feeling comfortable with the coaches."

"It had been floating around for a while, and I woke up one day. I was like, you know, I need to do this."

Rome, who will likely begin his Husker career at defensive end, chose Nebraska over scholarship offers from Florida, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, Oklahoma, Oklahoma State, UCLA, Tennessee and others. However, he said his recruitment is now officially over and



CHASE ROME

his pledge to the Big Red is as solid as it gets.

"Oh yeah, that's it," Rome said. "I'm not even taking phone calls. It's relieving and it's cool to be able to say that I'm done and graduating in December. I'll be enrolling there in the spring. Now I can just focus on continuing my relationships with the coaches and learning to be a leader."

"They believe that I will be a defensive end being that they're graduating some guys. They're going to let me grow and see where I end up. I think, and they think, I'll probably be a D-tackle ultimately. Start out outside and move inside as I get older."

Rome, who compiled over 40 tackles and five sacks through his first five games this fall, is the ninth known commitment for Nebraska's recruiting class of 2010.

GUY NARROWS HIS LIST



The Huskers will likely look to sign at least one more defensive tackle prospect in their 2010 class and Aldine,

Texas, Eisenhower big man **JAY GUY** looks to be a prime candidate to fill a slot. Though he has scholarship offers from colleges all over the country, the 6-1, 300-pounder has narrowed his recruiting focus to three schools.

"I've kind of narrowed it down to Cal, UCLA and Nebraska," Guy said. "Since I'll be graduating in December, I kind of have to be making some decisions over the next couple of months. I've already taken official visits to Cal (9/4) and UCLA (9/18) and will be going to Nebraska on Nov. 6 to watch them play Oklahoma."

"I'm real interested in seeing what Nebraska has to offer. I look forward to seeing their campus. Nebraska has a pretty good defense. That's the basis of Nebraska football - always has been. Bo Pelini is bringing the whole tradition of Husker football back."

Rated a 3-star prospect by Rivals, Guy plans to enroll in his school of choice for the spring semester. He said he plans to have a final college decision locked down "within a month" of returning from his November visit to Lincoln.

GREEN SET TO VISIT LINCOLN



Heralded 2011 running back recruit **AARON GREEN** of San Antonio, Texas, James Madison (5-11, 186 pounds), said he also plans to be in the Memorial Stadium stands on Nov. 7 to watch the Huskers take on Oklahoma. Though he's also looking hard at Texas, USC and Texas A&M, he admitted that it will be hard to say 'no' to the opportunity to play with his brother (Husker freshman cornerback **ANDREW GREEN**) in Lincoln.

Aaron Green rushed for over 2,000 yards and 27 touchdowns as a sophomore.

NEBRASKA'S SCHEDULE VISIT LIST

NAME	POS.	HT	WT	DATE	COMMIT
Damon Williams	DT	6-4	300	11/21	
Jay Guy	DT	6-1	300	11/7	California
Austin Hill	WR	6-3	192	11/7	
Joshua Mitchell	DB	5-11	165	11/7	
Harold Mobley	ATH	6-4	225	11/7	
Tobi Okuyemi	DE	6-3	250	11/7	
Tyler Slavin	WR	6-2	182	11/7	
Curtis Carter	ATH	5-10	161	10/17	
Derron Smith	DB	5-11	173	10/17	
Ciante Evans	DB	5-11	170	9/25	Nebraska
Chase Harper	TE	6-6	248	9/26	
Joshua Reese	WR	6-1	182	9/26	
Chase Rome	DE	6-3	290	9/26	Nebraska
Bud Sasser	WR	6-3	200	9/26	
Bobby Swigert	WR	6-1	175	9/26	
Colin Tanigawa	OL	6-3	286	9/26	
Willis Wright	WR	6-2	185	9/26	
Harvey Jackson	DB	6-2	185	9/5	Nebraska
Tejay Johnson	ATH	6-2	190	9/5	
Mike Moudy	OL	6-7	291	9/5	Nebraska
Donovan Vestal	DE	6-5	240	9/5	Nebraska



IN STATE SPOTLIGHT

BY SEAN CALLAHAN

Plattsmouth's **ANDREW MITTEIS** is arguably the top kicking prospect in the state of Nebraska.

The 6-foot-1, 160-pound Mitteis is more than a kicker, though. He starts at quarterback and cornerback for the Blue Devils, averages over 20 points per game in basketball and took home the state championship last spring in the 800-meter dash.

CALLAHAN: What's the longest field goal you've ever made?

MITTEIS: In a game it was 47 yards, and in practice I made a 53-yarder before.

CALLAHAN: Who's your favorite kicker?

MITTEIS: I'd have to say (current Nebraska kicker) Alex Henery or (Houston Texan and former Husker) Kris Brown. Kris Brown led the kicking camp at UNL this summer, so I've been kind of following him lately.

CALLAHAN: In the classroom you are a 4.0 student and ranked No. 1 in your class. What's been the hardest class you've ever taken? Can you handle not getting an A?

MITTEIS: Chemistry. That was probably my toughest class. I'll do whatever I can, though, for an A. I'll do extra credit, work extra hard and do whatever I can to get that A.

CALLAHAN: You have a brother who runs track for Nebraska and you are a state champion in the 800 yourself. How did your family get so involved in track?

MITTEIS: Me and Adam (Mitteis) have always known we were runners since we were young kids. We used to always compete in cross country and track events in middle school. Both my parents did track. My mom was a great athlete, and in high school she had some school records. I guess it's kind of in the blood, too. We've always been a track kind of family I guess.

CALLAHAN: What's one team you root against in sports?

MITTEIS: Oklahoma or Texas, just because they are always good and they are our rivals and we always root against them.

CALLAHAN: Give me your favorite football movie of all-time?

MITTEIS: Probably "Friday Night Lights." That movie is probably one of my favorites.

CALLAHAN: What's your favorite pre-game meal?

MITTEIS: Spaghetti or pasta. I like to eat that the night before the game.

CALLAHAN: If you could have lunch with any three famous people in the world, who would they be and why?

MITTEIS: Probably Derek Jeter. He has always been my role model and idol since I was a little kid. Tiger Woods, the same as Derek, it would be awesome to meet him. The last guy would be Will Farrell. He's my favorite actor, I love all his movies.

Recruiting Notebook

Gabbert remains committed

by Sean Stevens

Quarterback recruiting is an interesting phenomenon. In general, quarterbacks tend to commit early in hopes that their pledge will help with recruiting other offensive prospects. NU commit **TYLER GABBERT** (6-0, 190, 4 stars) of Ballwin, Mo., was no different. He chose Nebraska mid-summer and has remained committed ever since.

Recently, Gabbert's commitment has come into question. His brother Blaine is the starting quarterback at Missouri. Tyler and his parents attend most of Blaine's games, putting Tyler in contact with the Missouri coaching staff regularly. Obviously, he has developed a relationship with the Missouri staff. What's new to the equation is that the Tiger coaches have been making more effort to meet with Tyler outside of Columbia, including showing up at his game on the weekend of Oct. 2.

"Yeah, coach (**DAVID**) **YOST**, I saw him walking up at halftime," Gabbert said. "I think (**GARY**) **PINKEL** flew in with coach (**CORNELL**) **FORD** in a helicopter, making their rounds in St. Louis watching the games."

Things won't be final until February, but Gabbert remains committed to Nebraska.

"I think it's basically when you feel it," he said of his plans. "You know, I wouldn't have committed to Nebraska if that wasn't the

right place. There will be a point when you're absolutely final, but I don't have a determined date."

MOORE STAYS IN NU FAMILY

Offensive lineman **TYLER MOORE** (6-6, 290) of Clearwater, Fla., has been a big target for NU's 2011 class. His father, **BRIAN MOORE**, and his cousin **JAY MOORE** were both Huskers. Tyler had been planning to make his commitment before the end of his junior season, and recently he made the decision known.

"If he wanted to stay close to home it would be Florida because they have the best program in the area, the southeast," Bruce Moore said before the announcement. "If he went out of state it would have to be Nebraska, we narrowed that down."

The announcement came down one day after NU coach **BARNEY COTTON** watched Countryside's 31-13 victory over rival Clearwater.

"I've always wanted to go to Nebraska," Tyler Moore said. "After watching them the last couple of years, I like where they're going. I just love Nebraska, so I wanted to go there."

Moore said he will also try to help the NU staff build his recruiting class.

"I'm going to get on the phone as much as I can to a couple of big recruits that have Nebraska on their list." **N**

SIDELINES



EXPECTING TO SEE RED

Another big defensive tackle from Texas is scheduled to visit the Nebraska campus on Nov. 20. **DAMON WILLIAMS**, a 6-4, 300-pound big man out of Irving Nimitz said he's looking forward to experiencing the game-day atmosphere of a football Saturday in Lincoln.

"I set up the trip with Coach (**TIM**) **BECK** and he's excited to get me up there," Williams said. "He said I have the ability to anchor their defensive line and I've got the size and ability to come in and be an impact player for them. I'm expecting to see the 'Sea or Red.' I'm looking real forward to that. I want to see the atmosphere up there and see how their fans are. I also want to see their academic side of things."

Williams, rated a 3-star prospect by Rivals, also has scholarship offers from Arkansas, Baylor, Houston, Kansas, Kansas State, Texas Tech and Tulsa.

2010 Nebraska Commitment List (9)

Name (Rivals.com ranking)	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown (School)
Walker Ashburn ★★	DE	6-3	245	River Ridge, La. (John Curtis)
Ciante Evans ★★	CB	5-11	170	Arlington, Texas (Juan Seguin)
Tyler Evans ★★	ATH	6-2	180	Waverly, Neb. (Waverly)
Tyler Gabbert ★★	QB	6-0	190	Ballwin, Mo. (Parkway West)
Harvey Jackson ★★	DB	6-2	185	Missouri City, Texas (Hightower)
Mike Moudy ★★	OL	6-7	291	Castle Rock, Colo. (Douglas County)
Andrew Rodriguez ★★	OT	6-6	300	Aurora, Neb. (Aurora)
Donovan Vestal ★★	DE	6-5	240	Arlington, Texas (Bowie)
Chase Rome ★★	DE	6-3	290	Columbia, Mo. (Rock Bridge)



DEEP IN THE HEART OF TEXAS

BY JOHN TALMAN
RECRUITING PUBLISHER,
HUSKERSILLUSTRATED.COM

A case for the greatest Huskers from Texas

FOR THE NEXT two weeks, I'll tackle a topic I've wanted to tackle since I got the opportunity to write a column for Huskers Illustrated: Who are the top five offensive and defensive players, all time, that have come to Nebraska from the Lone Star State.

With help from those who have a better historical frame of reference than I have – I'm left with just looking at statistics and researching the past – I begin with the offense. The players discussed are presented in no particular order.

It's hard not to start my offensive list with a familiar name for Nebraska fans – a quarterback signed from Fort Worth Arlington Heights High School. That would be **TURNER GILL**, a three-time All-Big Eight quarterback (and now the head coach at Buffalo).

It was quite a battle between Oklahoma and Nebraska for Gill. The attention wasn't surprising since he was an all-state, all-county, and all-district player at Arlington Heights.

Gill finished at Nebraska with a 28-2 record as the starter, including an undefeated record against conference opponents. Handing off to Heisman Trophy-winning running back **MIKE ROZIER** and throwing to All-America wide receiver **IRVING FRYAR**, Gill helped form the vaunted "Triplets." The group earned their nickname (credited to Oklahoma coach Barry Switzer) for their three-pronged attack, which led to gaudy offensive numbers such as 546.7 yards in

total offense and 52 points per game in 1983.

Success in the mid 1990's had a lot to do with the NU offensive line. **AARON GRAHAM** is an easy pick for this list.

Graham was yet another All-America selection for the Huskers after leaving Denton High School for Big Red country. Whether it's starting out as the No. 1 deep-snapper and back-up center for the 1993 team that went to the national title game or the fact that he only had one bad exchange with three different quarterbacks on the title-winning '94 group, he made his presence known early. In the end, Graham was one of the best from the Lone Star State and helped continue the championship rushing attack during his time in Lincoln.

Tight end **JUNIOR MILLER** finished his Nebraska career holding every tight end receiving record after his senior season of 1979. The Midland Lee graduate was a high school All-American in football and an all-state pick in basketball. When he finished with the Huskers and was drafted seventh overall in the NFL draft by the Atlanta Falcons, Miller had picked up consensus All-America honors in 1979 and was a two-time All-Big Eight performer.

There is no debating that Wichita Falls Rider High product **AARON TAYLOR** must be on the list. It wasn't any sort of leap I had to make considering Taylor, despite not being heavily recruited out of high school like others on this list, rewrote

the history book for Nebraska while in Lincoln.

Taylor is the only Husker to earn All-America honors at two different positions (center and guard). As a senior in 1997 he helped clear the way to a 13-0 record and finished with a then-school record 137 pancake blocks.

Last, but certainly not least by any stretch of the imagination, is two-time first-team All-America (academic and athletic) selection **JAKE YOUNG**. Young, joining the Huskers from Lee High in Midland, was the first true freshman at Nebraska to earn a letter on the offensive line since freshman eligibility was restored nationally by the NCAA in 1972. Then after a miraculous recovery from a broken leg in the spring, he came back in the fall to be the first true sophomore to start on the offensive line in 14 years. He also helped lead NU to rushing titles in 1988 and 1989.

While it's hard to leave the likes of **KRIS BROWN**, **DOUG GLASER**, **KELVIN CLARK** and **RICK BERNIS** off the list, Young's career and legacy as a player and person make it tough to even think about not having him on my list. After his tragic passing in 2002, he's remembered as not just a great football player, but as a great person through the Jake Young Memorial Endowed Scholarship. The scholarship was created in his honor and is awarded each year to a varsity football student-athlete who demonstrates not only leadership skills, but a high level of athletic and academic achievement. **N**

Volleyball

MEGAN PENDERGAST

BY BOB HAMAR

Pendergast embraces evolving role

Nebraska's Megan Pendergast still wasn't sure what her role would be this season halfway through her first year with the Husker volleyball program.

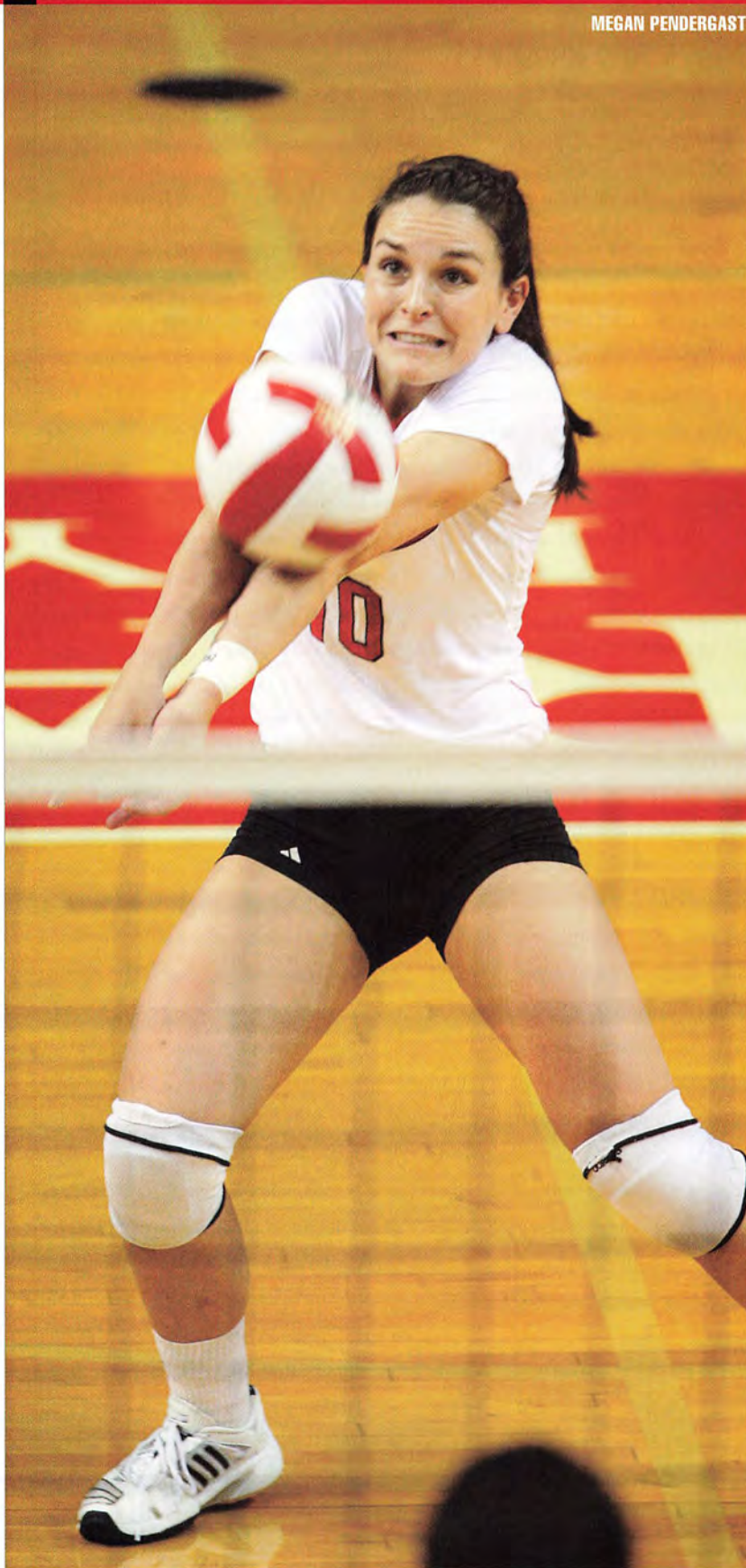
"I'm not really sure," Pendergast said. "I'm just going to keep working hard. If Coach puts me in the middle, I'd do the best I could do. No matter what my role is, I'm going to do it to my fullest and just try to do whatever I can to help my team succeed."

Pendergast, a freshman defensive specialist from League City, Texas, saw more action earlier in the year. As the Big 12 season progressed she saw less as coach John Cook went more with freshman Gina Mancuso at that spot because of her ability to attack from the back row.

Mancuso is 6-foot-1 while Pendergast is 5-7.

But that's a big 5-7. Pendergast recorded some impressive numbers as an all-state outside hitter at Clear Creek High School where she averaged 4.3 kills per set in helping Clear Creek to the state semi-finals last fall.

Pendergast showed what she could do in Nebraska's pre-season testing when she set the school record for the vertical jump at 32 inches. Nebraska strength coach Laura Pilakowski is second in that category while current Husker



Hannah Werth is third.

"I've always been a good leaper, but Laura Pilakowski in Husker Power made it easy to do things like that, like run fast and jump high," Pendergast said. "This team worked so hard. I think everyone's vertical had increased; everyone is faster, and everyone is quicker to the ball because we work so hard in the summer, and we don't let anyone slack off. It's a big deal to us."

The high point of Pendergast's career so far came in the Big 12 opener against Texas Tech when her six-point serving run broke open the third set in a 3-0 Nebraska victory.

"To be honest I don't even know what happened," Pendergast said. "Coach said, 'Megan you're going in to serve for Kaitlynn (James).' He had asked me earlier in the day if I'd be ready to serve and I said yes. When he told me to go in, I just thought, 'Put the ball on the court. Put the ball on the court,' and I caught a few lucky breaks."

Pendergast graduated from high school early and enrolled at Nebraska in January along with fellow freshman Werth. That allowed both players to go through spring drills and get a head start on their college careers.

Pendergast doesn't regret her early entry at all.

"It was one of the best decisions I've ever made as an athlete because obviously I have a lot of developing as a libero and as a defensive specialist to do, both passing and defensive-wise," Pendergast said. "Coach Cook pushes me every single day to become the player I think he knows I can be."

Cook could tell early in the season how much that spring practice experience helped both Pendergast and Werth.

"Hannah and Megan are squared away. They're not worried about school. They're just so much more comfortable," Cook said. "You just look at our freshmen and they're like punch-drunk fighters walking around. Hayley (Thramer) and Gina and just

because it's all new, those guys have already been through it, so it's a huge advantage."

Pendergast considered several different scholarship offers before getting one from the Huskers, including a couple from Big 12 schools in her home state of Texas.

But once Cook offered, the decision wasn't difficult.

"Once Coach offered me it was pretty easy," Pendergast said. "I had a couple other schools I was interested in, but I couldn't pass up an opportunity to be a part of something so great as Nebraska volleyball."

Now Pendergast just has to get ready for another cold Nebraska winter. She doesn't really like the cold weather, but it's just part of playing at Nebraska.

"I've been through winter before, half of it at least," Pendergast said. "I don't think I'd ever worn so many clothes. I had to do laundry like every other day because I wore everything I own. I was so cold all the time."

CUTTING SERVICE ERRORS

The Huskers drastically cut their service errors early in October. On Sept. 30 they committed 14 service errors in a 3-2 victory at Oklahoma. On Oct. 7 they cut that to three in a sweep of Kansas.

NU was even more accurate on Oct. 10 against Kansas State, when the Huskers had just two service errors.

"I think we've put more of an emphasis on it in practice," junior libero Kayla Banwarth said. "More consequences for missed serves in practice have really carried over to the match. Just having more of a focus on it every day instead of just game days has really just increased the importance of serving."

So what are those "consequences" of not hitting serves in practice?

"Bear claws, sprints, pretty much anything Coach Cook wants to see us do," Banwarth said.

WILD NCAA TOURNAMENT

As of Oct. 13, Penn State and Texas were sitting atop the national polls with unbeaten records. On the other hand, Stanford, Minnesota and Nebraska all had four losses but were still in the top seven while Florida and Illinois were in the top 10 with three losses.

That balance could make the NCAA Tournament interesting this season.

"You got to get to the tournament, but I think it's going to be a wild ride," Cook said. "Who's playing well the second half? I think we always prided ourselves at Nebraska based on our preparation in the off-season that we can be a great second-half team." **N**

2009 VOLLEYBALL SCHEDULE

Aug. 22	Red/White Scrimmage, 7 p.m.
Aug. 28-29	Runza/AVCA Showcase
Aug. 28	*vs. Michigan, L, 3-0
Aug. 29	*vs. Minnesota, W, 3-2
Sept. 1	Creighton, W, 3-0
Sept. 4-5	at LSU Tournament
Sept. 4	vs. UL-Lafayette, W, 3-0
	at LSU, W, 3-2
Sept. 5	vs. Tulane, W, 3-0
Sept. 10-13	Ameritas Players Challenge
Sept. 10	Virginia, W, 3-0
Sept. 11	BYU, W, 3-1
Sept. 13	^UCLA, L, 3-2
Sept. 16	Texas Tech, W, 3-0
Sept. 19	at Colorado, W, 3-0
Sept. 23	at Texas A&M, L, 3-2
Sept. 30	at Oklahoma, W, 3-0
Oct. 7	Kansas, W, 3-0
Oct. 10	Kansas State, W, 3-0
Oct. 14	at Baylor, W, 3-0
Oct. 17	at Missouri, 6:30 p.m.
Oct. 21	Iowa State, 7 p.m.
Oct. 24	Oklahoma, 7 p.m.
Oct. 28	at Texas Tech, 6:30 p.m.
Oct. 30	at Texas, 6:30 p.m.
Nov. 4	Missouri, 7 p.m.
Nov. 7	at Iowa State, 6:30 p.m.
Nov. 13	Texas A&M, 7 p.m.
Nov. 18	Baylor, 7 p.m.
Nov. 21	at Kansas, 6:30 p.m.
Nov. 25	at Kansas State, 7 p.m.
Nov. 28	Colorado, 7 p.m.
Dec. 4-5	NCAA 1st/2nd Rounds, TBA
Dec. 11-12	*NCAA Regionals, TBA
Dec. 17	NCAA Semifinals, Finals
	* at Qwest Center, Omaha
	^ at Bob Devaney Sports Center

Basketball

BRANDON UBEL

BY BRIAN ROSENTHAL

2010 Husker lineup continues to grow

Brandon Ubel hasn't even played a game for the Nebraska basketball team and already the school's media relations department has had to update his profile.

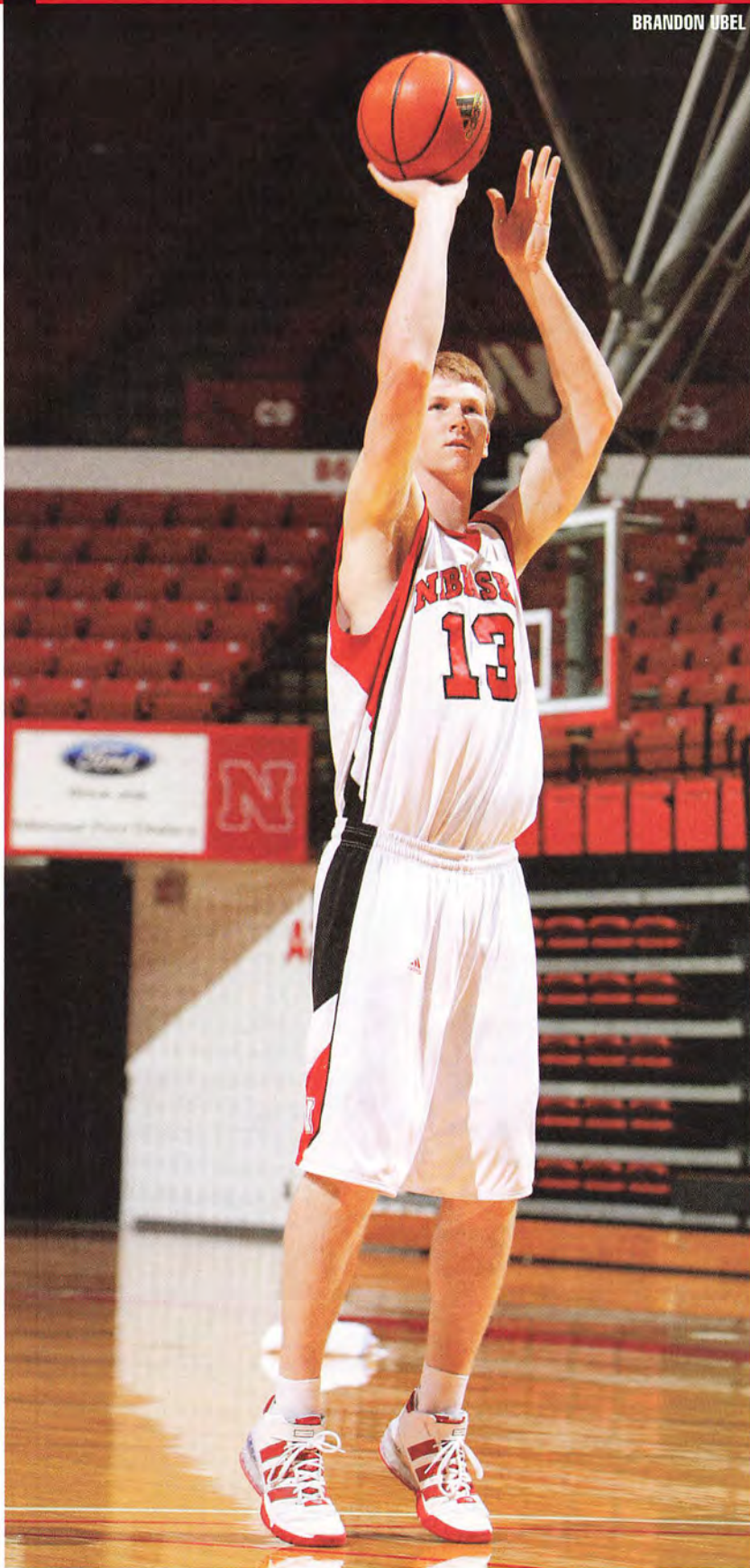
Seems that Ubel, a true freshman from Kansas City, Kan., has grown an inch since he arrived on campus in June. Nebraska wasted little time in reflecting the growth spurt on the team's official roster, which now lists the 220-pound Ubel at 6-foot-10.

Ubel, who only turned 18 in August, smiled and shrugged when told he's officially an inch taller.

"I guess I am. I'm not really sure," Ubel said. "I mean, I guess I have noticed it. I was looking at Jorge the other day and I'm like, 'Hey, we're pretty close.'"

That Ubel is closer to seeing eye-to-eye with 6-11 freshman Brian Jorge Diaz is good news for Nebraska. It's also good news that Ubel has had the summer to play with – and against – Diaz.

"His length is Big 12-type length," Ubel said. "You can't just come in and shoot a lay-up. You've got to find where he is, try and draw contact, or you're going to have to dish, or else it's going to get blocked."



"It makes you definitely more aware on the court. It will help us out having a guy like him. You know if you get beat off the dribble, you've got somebody down there who can erase a mistake or two."

That type of experience – before practice has even officially begun – has been invaluable and well worth Ubel's early-summer arrival.

Sure, he missed spending time with his friends back home. But that's been the only drawback to a June arrival for Ubel, who moved to Lincoln the same time as fellow freshman Ray Gallegos.

"It's a really good thing we were here that whole time," Ubel said, "because I would much rather get used to where everything is on campus and the speed of everything, stuff like that, a couple of months ago rather than right now, when we're a month away from our first game."

Ubel isn't concerned about basketball burnout before the season even starts, either.

"I would've been doing a bunch of basketball stuff, anyway," he said. "It was probably the best thing to be up here, getting used to all the guys, all the coaches, start building those relationships."

When Ubel signed last November, coach Doc Sadler said he felt Nebraska got "a steal" of a player. Ubel, a young player for his class, was still growing and developing when he first committed to Nebraska.

His senior season, Ubel averaged 17.7 points and 17.6 rebounds for Blue Valley West High School and earned first-team all-state honors in Class 6A, the largest in Kansas.

Ubel has become a strong player both inside and out, displaying a nice shooting touch from the perimeter to go with his post moves. He's also a skilled dribbler and ball-handler after beginning his

basketball career playing guard and wing.

"I always played a grade above me," Ubel said. "I was always playing older guys, so I wasn't as tall. I was kind of forced out on the wing and up top — handle the ball and shoot, dribble and stuff."

Ubel said his experience on the perimeter has helped his ball handling and quickness while playing against big men, such as Diaz.

In the four months he's been playing with and against Nebraska teammates in pick-up games, Ubel said he's gotten a better feel for Division I basketball and has learned to adjust his game accordingly.

"I got to see what I have to do to score here, as opposed to in high school, and what I have to do to defend here," Ubel said. "What works, what doesn't work, and just improving on what will work and learning new moves that I didn't need in high school that I will need now because I can't do certain things."

No longer can Ubel take his time in the paint, wait for people to clear, then make his move.

"Here, they're going to collapse on you. They're not leaving," he said. "You've got to catch it and make a move fast, which was probably the toughest thing for me to learn on the court. Just catch and go. But I've gotten that down now, and that's what I've really improved on, is just catch and make a move fast."

Again, a lesson better learned in June and July than in October, when the figurative bullets begin to fly.

AUBRY LEADS CANADA

Former Nebraska women's basketball player Chelsea Aubry helped Canada win the bronze medal at the FIBA Americas Tournament and qualify for the 2010

World Championships.

Aubry, a native of Kitchener, Ontario, helped Canada to a 3-1 record. She scored 14 points in a victory over the Dominican Republic and had 12 points in a 70-57 victory over Puerto Rico. Canada lost to Brazil but defeated Cuba in overtime. Aubry had a 3-pointer with 4 seconds left to give Canada a 48-45 lead, but Cuba got a 3-pointer at the buzzer to send the game to overtime.

Aubry was a three-year starter and four-year letterwinner at Nebraska from 2003-04 through 2006-07. She helped the Huskers to four consecutive post-season tournament appearances, including a trip to the 2007 NCAA Tournament. **N**

2009 MEN'S BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

Nov. 6	Arkansas-Fort Smith (exh.), 7 p.m.
Nov. 10	Hastings (exh.), 7 p.m.
Nov. 14	South Carolina Upstate, TBD
Nov. 18	at Saint Louis, TBD
Nov. 21	TCU, TBD
Nov. 24	UMKC, 7 p.m.
Nov. 29	at USC, TBD
Dec. 2	Texas-Pan American, 7 p.m.
Dec. 6	at Creighton, TBD
Dec. 10	Chicago State, 7 p.m.
Dec. 12	Oregon State, TBD
Dec. 19	Jackson State, 7 p.m. at Las Vegas Classic
Dec. 22	vs. Tulsa, 7 p.m.
Dec. 23	vs. BYU or Nevada, 7 or 9:30 p.m.
Dec. 29	Southern Utah, 7 p.m.
Jan. 2	Maryland Eastern Shore, TBD
Jan. 5	Southeastern Louisiana, 7 p.m.
Jan. 9	at Texas A&M, 3 p.m., Big 12 Network
Jan. 13	Kansas, 8 p.m., ESPN2
Jan. 16	Iowa State, TBD
Jan. 23	at Missouri, 5 p.m., Big 12 Network
Jan. 27	at Colorado, TBD
Jan. 30	Oklahoma, 12:30 p.m., Big 12 Network
Feb. 2	Kansas State, 7 p.m., Big 12 Network
Feb. 6	at Kansas, 5 p.m., ESPN2
Feb. 10	Baylor, 8 p.m., ESPN2
Feb. 13	at Texas, 3 p.m., Big 12 Network
Feb. 17	at Kansas State, TBD
Feb. 20	Missouri, 5 p.m., Big 12 Network
Feb. 24	at Iowa State, TBD
Feb. 27	Texas Tech, 3 p.m., Big 12 Network
Mar. 2	Colorado, TBD
Mar. 6	at Okla. St., 12:30 p.m., Big 12 Network at Big 12 Championship
Mar. 10-13	at Kansas City, Mo. (Sprint Center)

BRANDON CRICK



MEN'S GOLF Crick joins Nebraska continues winning

BY TOMMY DAHLK

Brandon Crick came back to Nebraska for the amazing weather. Well, not really, but Nebraska almost seems like Club Med compared to the springs he experienced in the state of Washington his freshman and sophomore years while playing at Gonzaga.

"I think my last spring there (at Gonzaga), we only got one week of practice in that whole spring season," Crick said. "There was bad weather and always snow on the ground."

After two years of earning numerous All-West Coast Conference laurels, Crick, a McCook native, decided to come back home to Nebraska and play for the Huskers in 2008.

Crick enjoyed his time up there and doesn't regret his decision to play for the Zags at all. He simply felt a change would do him good.

"I just wanted a little change of pace and get back to home," Crick said. "I really enjoy the Nebraska area."

Since his return home, Crick hasn't missed a beat. He won two events last spring season. Then, last summer, he really started to get on a hot streak.

Crick qualified for the U.S. Amateur Public Links Championship and advanced all the way to the semifinals. Soon after that finish, he took home his second career Nebraska Amateur Championship at Ironwood Country Club in Omaha. He also had a semi-final berth in the Nebraska Men's State Match Play Championship and an appearance in the U.S. Open Sectional Qualifier.

Yes, it was a pretty good summer for Crick. Now, he's focused on staying hot and making his last year in Lincoln one to remember.

Through his first three tournaments, Crick already had a tied-for-fifth finish, which was the 12th top-10 finish of his career.

Although he can't complain too much about how he's playing, Crick still believes he's left a lot out there.

"I haven't had a tournament where it all has mended together over all three rounds," Crick said.

But, he said, it's getting close and hopes to build momentum for the spring season. Like Crick, the Huskers have played well, but still have yet to put together three-consecutive stellar rounds.

Crick expects that to change soon and expects the Huskers to be a team to watch in the spring season.

"To be honest, we are two good rounds away from having two or three wins," he said. "We've been that close, but if we can play an entire tournament together, we could pull off a few wins." **N**

HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED TEAMSTORE



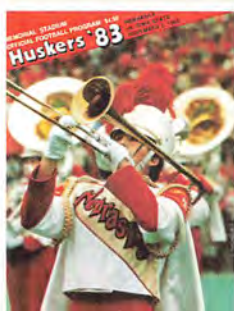
SHOPHUSKERSILLUSTRATED.NET



FIRE UP FOR HOMECOMING - Bonfire rallies were typically part of Nebraska's Homecoming festivities, as depicted here on the night before the 1958 Homecoming game against Missouri - which the Cornhuskers lost 31-0. Nebraska didn't fare all that well in Homecoming games during the 1950s, in fact, losing six. However, two of the victories were dramatic. In 1950, Bobby Reynolds scored three touchdowns, including one on which he reversed field and ran more than 100 yards on what was officially 33 yards, as Nebraska defeated Missouri 40-34. In 1959, the Cornhuskers snapped Oklahoma's 74-game conference unbeaten streak, 25-21, arguably the most significant upset in Nebraska football history. The cover for the game program that day (Oct. 31) featured the Homecoming bonfire from 1958. Nebraska's first Homecoming game was played in 1911, Jumbo Stiehms' first season as coach. The Cornhuskers played Michigan to a 6-6 tie. This season's Homecoming game against Louisiana-Lafayette on Sept. 26 was the earliest in school history, and the only one to be played in September.

GAMES REMEMBERED

Nov. 5, 1983 • at Memorial Stadium



Nebraska's offense in 1983 was nicknamed the "Scoring Explosion," with good reason. Consider the Iowa State game. The Cornhuskers scored 72 points and gained 667 yards, including 426 rushing.

I-back **MIKE ROZIER**, who would win the Heisman Trophy at season's end, ran for more than 200 yards for a second consecutive week, rushing for 212 yards and four touchdowns.

He gained 164 of the yards, on only 11 carries, in the second half.

The 72 points were the most ever scored by Nebraska, or any team, at Memorial Stadium. The previous record was 69, against Colorado two weeks before.

Even so, there was cause for concern in the Nebraska locker room. The Cyclones exploited defensive weaknesses and finished with 503 yards and 25 first downs.

Iowa State quarterback **DAVID ARCHER** completed 26-of-46 passes for 346 of the yards and one TD, prompting Cornhusker defensive coordinator **CHARLIE MCBRIDE** to remark afterward that the Blackshirts might have to start relying on a "nickel" package more often.

"It's a new game, and a whole different world," McBride was quoted following the game. "College football is like pro football. So many teams have gone to the passing game, and defensively, our thinking has to change with it. We're going to have to recruit different and play different.

"We need more speed."

TOM OSBORNE: "I wish we could shut people down better than

Nebraska 72, Iowa State 29

Iowa State	0	14	7	8	-	29
Nebraska	14	21	10	27	-	72

(N)	Mike Rozier 5 run (Scott Livingston kick)
(N)	Todd Frain 27 pass Turner Gill (Livingston kick)
(IS)	Tommy Davis 15 pass David Archer (Marc Bachrodt kick)
(N)	Irving Fryar 20 pass Gill (Livingston kick)
(IS)	Davis 1 run (Bachrodt kick)
(N)	Gill 3 run (Livingston kick)
(N)	Scott Kimball 18 pass Gill (Livingston kick)
(IS)	Al Watson 1 run (Bachrodt kick)
(N)	Rozier 21 run (Livingston kick)
(N)	Livingston 31 field goal
(N)	Rozier 59 run (Livingston kick)
(IS)	Davis 2 run (Dave Smoldt pass Archer)
(N)	Rozier 17 run (Livingston kick)
(N)	Craig Sundberg 1 run (Mark Hagerman kick)
(N)	Jeff Smith 1 run (kick failed)

Attendance: 76,326

we have recently."

DO YOU REMEMBER? A promoter of rock concerts, **BARRY FEY**, tried to put together what he called a "Dream Bowl," matching Nebraska and Texas in a national championship game following the 1983 season. The teams were undefeated and untied and ranked first and second, respectively, in early November when the Associated Press reported Fey's proposal, which included a \$1.5 million payout to each team.

Nebraska Athletic Director **BOB DEVANEY** told the AP, however: "There's nothing that's going to happen on this. They're not going to get it past the NCAA. This is a playoff idea, and the NCAA has already said there won't be any playoffs."

Both teams finished the regular season undefeated and untied. Both lost bowl games.

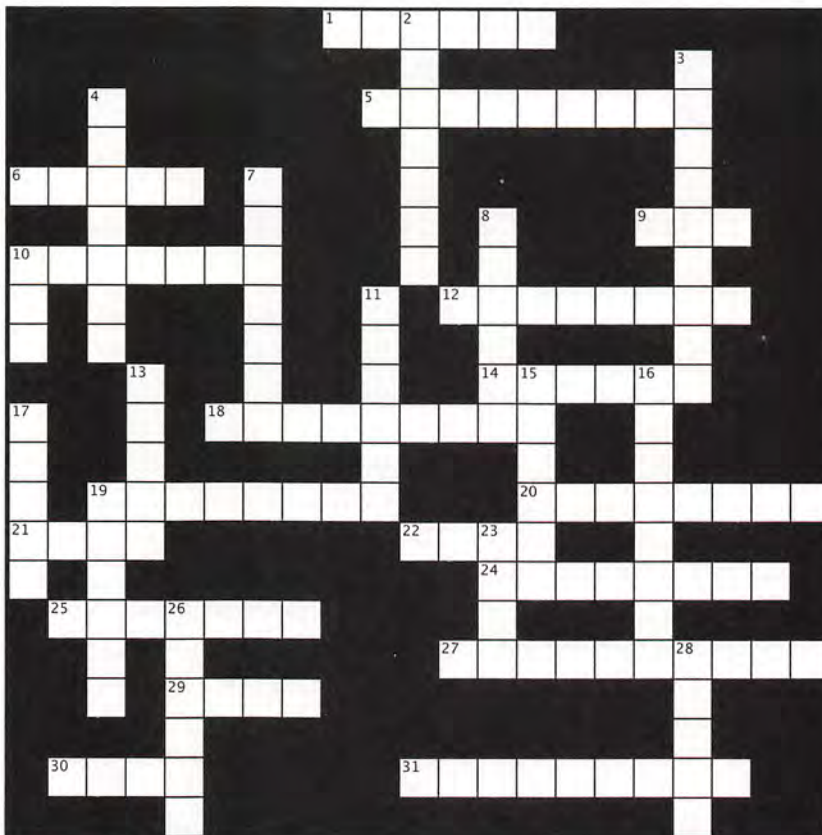
CROSSWORD & TRIVIA

ACROSS

1. Calls NU's plays from press box
5. Ex-Husker offensive lineman now with St. Louis Rams
6. Ex-Husker kicker now with St. Louis Rams
9. Network for NU-Iowa State telecast
10. 1992 Outland Trophy winner
12. Iowa State nickname
14. Ndamukong Suh's home state
18. Leading tackler vs. Missouri
19. Defensive ends coach
20. Nov. 7 opponent
21. Iowa State campus location
22. Scored 2 touchdowns vs. Missouri
24. Iowa State school color
25. 1994 Outland Trophy winner
27. 2010 non-conference road opponent
29. Frank Solich's new school
30. Patrick Witt's new school
31. Barry Turner's home state

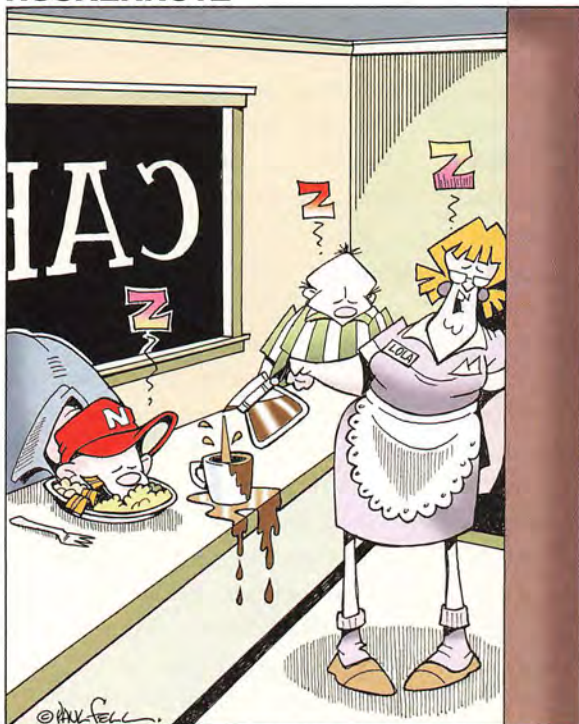
DOWN

2. Long-time offensive line coach
3. Ex-Husker offensive lineman now with Denver Broncos
4. 2011 non-conference road opponent
7. 2009 College Football Hall of Fame inductee
8. Halloween opponent
10. Career record-holder for interceptions by a defensive tackle
11. Iowa State head coach
13. Rex Burkhead's home state
15. 2000 Rimington Award winner
16. Ex-Husker linebacker now with Dallas Cowboys
17. Jared Crick's hometown
19. Defensive line coach
23. 2012 non-conference road opponent
26. 1995 College Football Hall of Fame selection
28. Returned interception 40 yards vs. Missouri



Answers will appear in the Oct. 31 issue

HUSKERNUTZ



LATE NIGHT NEBRASKA GAMES TAKE A SERIOUS TOLL ON THE HUSKER NATION WORK FORCE.

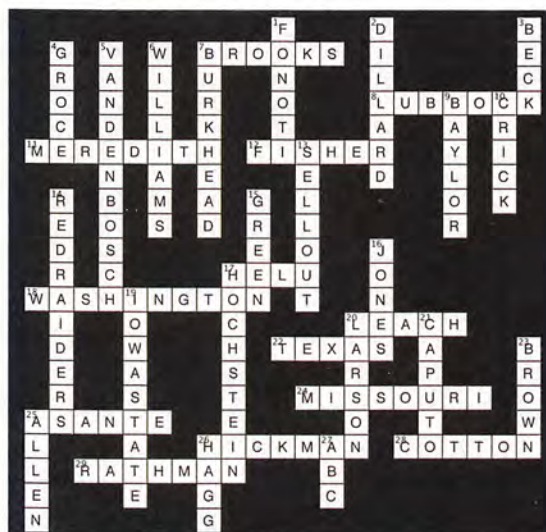
HAVE IDEAS?

Do you have some inspiration for a HuskerNutz cartoon? If we use your idea, we'll give you credit and send you an autographed full-color print of your HuskerNutz cartoon!

SEND IDEAS TO: Paul Fell Cartoons,
3215 Jamestown Lane, Lincoln, NE 68516
or email to: pfell@neb.rr.com



OCT. 17 CROSSWORD SOLUTION





THE FINAL WORD

BY MIKE BABCOCK

Cornhuskers take wins, losses as a team

ON FRIDAY, after meetings and before the walk-through at Memorial Stadium, Blackshirts were distributed to 13 defenders, including the nickel back and the dime back.

During his interview following Nebraska's 31-10 loss to Texas Tech, coach Bo Pelini was asked if those who had received them on Friday would still have the Blackshirts on Sunday.

"Don't worry about the Blackshirts," Pelini said. "Get over it."

His words were measured and heavy with meaning.

"We didn't play well enough. It had nothing to do with Blackshirts or yellow shirts or white shirts or whatever the hell it is. We got our butts kicked," he said. "It's not about Blackshirts. It's about executing on game day, when we're out there in red and white. And we didn't do that."

From the beginning, Pelini has emphasized that you win as a team and you lose as a team. So don't separate defense, offense and special teams. This was a team effort. And it was lacking.

Statistically, Nebraska played well enough defensively. Texas Tech came to town ranked second nationally in passing offense, total offense and scoring offense. And Nebraska held the Red Raiders under their averages in all three categories, well under their averages.

Their total offense, 259 yards, was half their per-game average, for instance.

But never mind what the defensive statistics showed. "We didn't make plays," said Pelini. "We had guys there. We didn't make some plays, and we didn't play well enough.

"You've got to step up and make plays.

We didn't do it. It's as simple as that."

The week leading up to the game was one of good feelings, the result of a fourth-quarter escape in the Big 12 opener at Missouri. The offense had struggled for three quarters but thanks to consistent defensive play, the Cornhuskers remained in position for the comeback victory.

That success attracted national attention. Among those in Lincoln early in the week were Sports Illustrated and ESPN, focusing on Ndamukong Suh, the face of the defense.

Nebraska moved up in the rankings, to No. 15 in the Associated Press poll, No. 17 according to the coaches. Fans and media speculated where the Cornhuskers might have been had they held on to win at Virginia Tech. Certainly they would have been in the top 10, and probably the top five.

They would have had the look of a national championship contender, heady stuff. So a little humility wouldn't have been such a bad thing. But a 31-10 loss was too much humility. "Obviously I didn't do a good enough job getting them prepared as a football team," Pelini said.

Not that the players bought into the hype.

"I think we're level-headed," Suh said.

But some among the crowd of 86,107, the second-largest in school history, were probably thinking of making reservations for Arlington, Texas, and the Big 12 championship game on Dec. 5.

The Cornhuskers can still get there.

"We definitely can take care of that goal," said Suh.

Defense alone won't do it, however, just as offense alone didn't do it for Texas

Tech. Red Raiders coach Mike Leach described his team's defensive effort as one of the best during his tenure.

Though Pelini attributed the loss to all aspects of the team, Nebraska's offensive problems were the most dramatic. The Cornhuskers managed only 70 yards rushing, an average of 2.3 per carry.

"We didn't execute on offense. We didn't come off the ball. We didn't catch the ball. We didn't make the right reads at quarterback. We didn't run the ball effectively," Pelini said.

He was asked if there might be a change at quarterback.

"Absolutely," he said, "we're thinking about a lot of changes, every position."

The question about the possibility of the Blackshirts being pulled came a little later.

The defenders were "definitely happy to get those," said Suh. "But if I was Coach Bo, I'd definitely take them away. We didn't play up to Blackshirt level. Until we do, we don't deserve them."

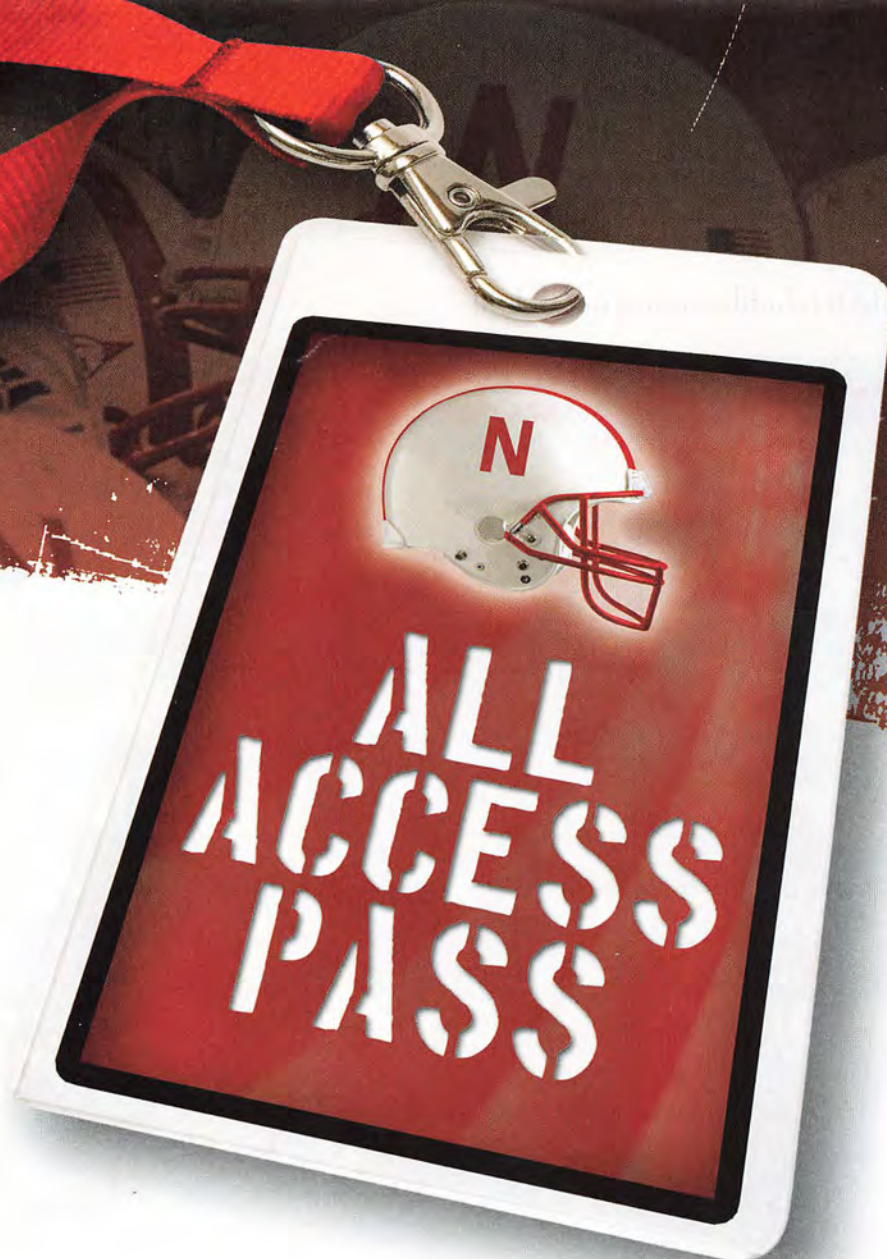
Was that made clear when the Blackshirts were distributed?

"Definitely, I mean, just because you get them and earn them for three, four, five games doesn't mean they're yours to just keep. You've got to keep playing up to that level," Suh said.

"That's the whole point."

The defense played well for much of the game. But since it has come to characterize Pelini's second team, it, as well as the offense, has to assume responsibility for the loss.

Ultimately, it's about red and white – or more accurately, scarlet and cream – not black. **N**



YOU'RE IN.

PRACTICE REPORTS

SEAN CALLAHAN ANALYSIS

HOME GAME HIGHLIGHTS

POST GAME PRESS CONFERENCES

RECRUITING UPDATES

COACHES SHOWS

BIG RED WRAP-UP

FREE for Digital Cable customers!

Watch Husker highlights and a whole lot more on your schedule! Nebraska On Demand is only on Time Warner Cable channel 101.



www.timewarnercable.com

**Excitement's in the air.
The team is fully prepared.
All the hours of work invested.
People will be watching, oh they'll
definitely be watching. And we are
ready to take on all the challenges.**



2009 Nebraska Football Schedule

Date	Opponent	Location	Time/Results
Sat, Sep 05	Florida Atlantic	Memorial Stadium	W, 49-3
Sat, Sep 12	Arkansas State	Memorial Stadium	W, 38-9
Sat, Sep 19	at Virginia Tech	at Blacksburg, VA	L, 15-16
Sat, Sep 26	Louisiana-Lafayette	Memorial Stadium	W, 55-0
Thu, Oct 08	at Missouri *	at Columbia, MO	W, 27-12
Sat, Oct 17	Texas Tech *	Memorial Stadium	L, 10-31
Sat, Oct 24	Iowa State *	Memorial Stadium	11:30 a.m., FSN
Sat, Oct 31	at Baylor *	at Waco, TX	TBA
Sat, Nov 07	Oklahoma *	Memorial Stadium	TBA
Sat, Nov 14	at Kansas *	at Lawrence, KS	TBA
Sat, Nov 21	Kansas State *	Memorial Stadium	TBA
Fri, Nov 27	at Colorado *	at Boulder, CO	2:30 p.m., ABC
Sat, Dec 5	Big 12 Championship	Arlington, TX (Dallas Cowboys New Stadium)	7 p.m., ABC

* Conference games



LINCOLN
402.470.5335
OMAHA
402.391.5696

**Six generations of print excellence...
next generation innovation.**

Web Press • Sheetfed • Digital-Print • Mail • Web
jacobnorth.com maildifferent.com